

NIPSON

User Guide

CompAfpTolpds

User Guide

CompAfpTolpds

SOFTWARE

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Preface

The software **CompAfpToIPDS** allows **AFP** files to be printed on **NIPSON printers**. It converts **AFP** files in **IPDS** printer protocol.

This software is a part of the printing server offer **NIPSON PrintServer Version 5.0**. It can be used in two different ways :

- in **external composer** (thus manual),
- in **integrated composer** : In this case, the **CompAfpToIPDS** application becomes a composer controlled automatically by the composition spooler of **NIPSON PrintServer**.

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1. Introduction

CompAfpTolpds is an easy-to-use software, the purpose of which is to print **AFP** files on NIPSON printers. It thus takes an **AFP** file as inputs and produces an **IPDS** file understandable by NIPSON printers.

Contents of this document:

Chapter 2, « Installation », explains how to install or remove the product.

Chapter 3, « Configuration and Customization », details how to configure the product.

Chapter 4, « Composer Using », explains how to use the CompAfpTolpds composer.

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2. Installation

2.1 HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS

Hardware

You require a PC computer with at least the following hardware specifications:

- A **Pentium 4 processor minimum 2 GHz.**
- **1024 MB amount of RAM.**
- A local hard disk with 40 gigabytes space.
- A CDROM drive.
- A network connection.

A bi-processors PC is recommended if **Nipson PrintServer** and **CompAfpTolpdS** products are installed on the same station.

Software

The computer must run on **Microsoft Windows 2000** with service pack 4 at least or **Microsoft Windows XP** or **Microsoft Windows Server 2003** or **Microsoft Windows Vista**.

All the products are to be installed as SPOOLADM (account with Administrator rights).
If this account doesn't exist, it must be created.

2.2 COMP AFP TO IPDS INSTALLATION

The **CompAfpTolpds** product are to be installed from **CD-ROM VPServer**.

Starting the installation of CompAfpTolpds product:

On the **CD-ROM VPServer**, go to the directory:

\UTSP075-e\Windows

To start installation, click on **CompAfpTolpds(5.0.0.0)_5.0.0.0.exe** (or higher version).

At the installation start which is an auto-extractible file, a first window appears indicating the product contents:

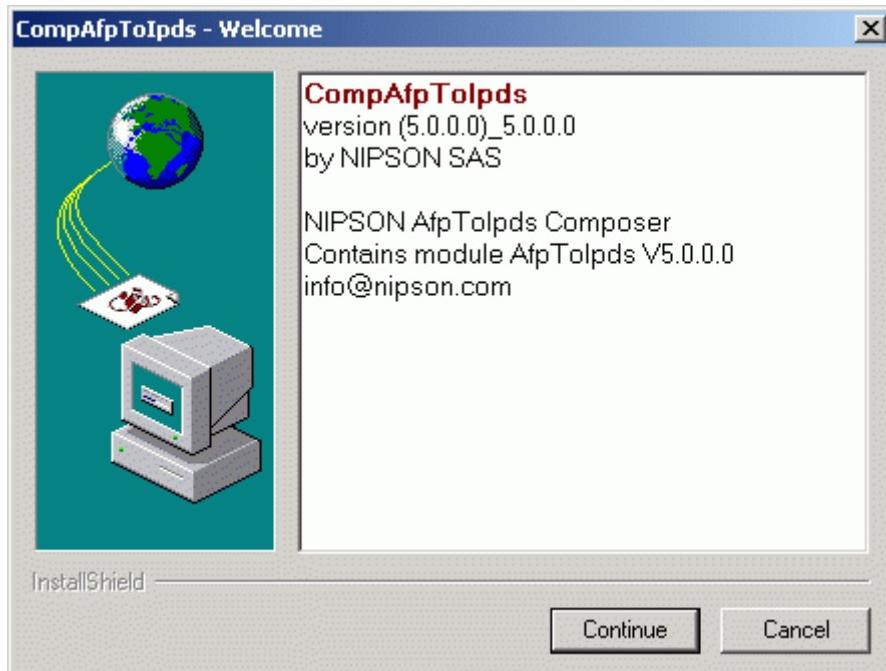


Figure 2-1 CompAfpTolpds installation: Product contents

During installation files extraction, the following window is displayed:

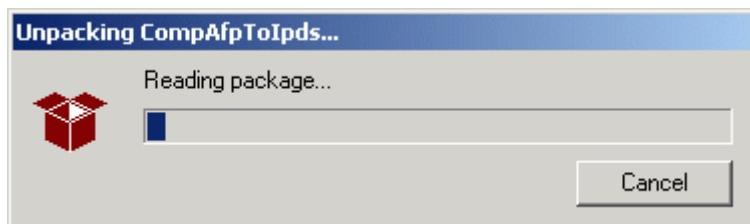


Figure 2-2 CompAfpTolpds installation: Installation files extraction

Installation

At the start of the installation, a first window makes it possible to select the installation language :



Figure 2-3 CompAfpTolpds installation: Language selection

During initialization of the installation, the following window is displayed:

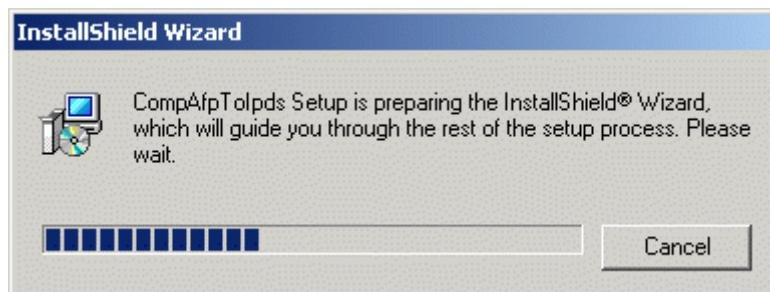


Figure 2-4 CompAfpTolpds installation: Initialization

A message is displayed then recalling that any other NIPSON composer should imperatively be stopped :



Figure 2-5 CompAfpTolpds installation: Stop Composers

The following window indicates that one is ready to start the installation:

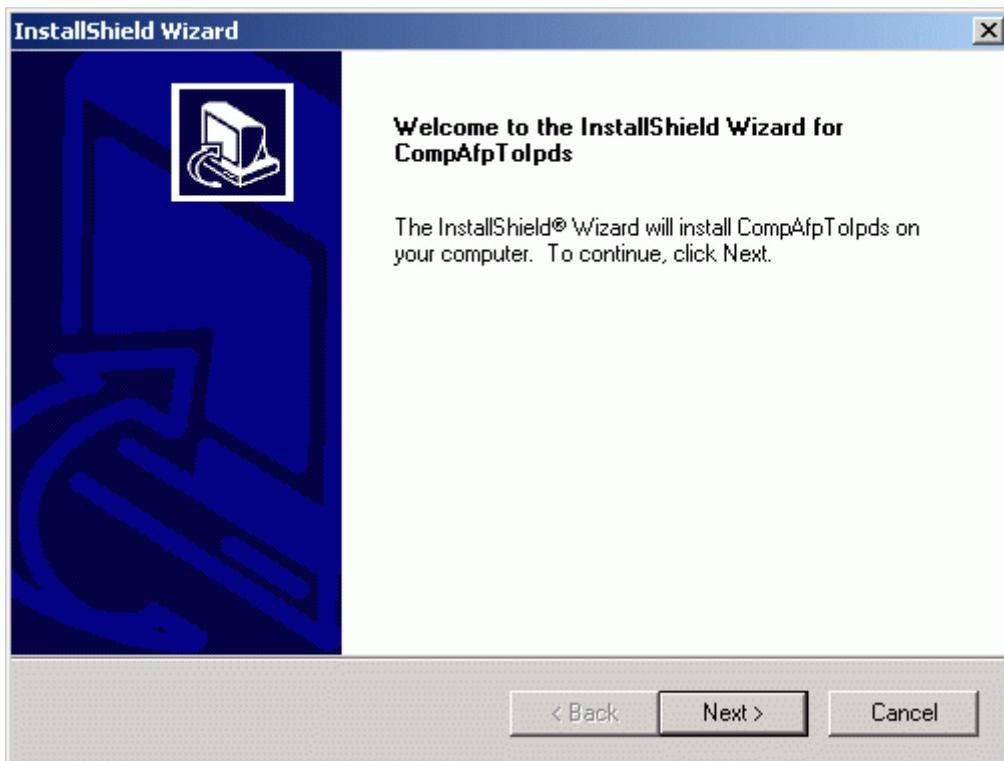


Figure 2-6 CompAfpTolpds installation: Welcome

Click on the 'Next' button to show the dialog box 'Choose Destination Location'.

By default, the destination folder:

'C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpTolpds'

is proposed. If you have no specific reason to install the product elsewhere, maintain this proposed Destination Folder.

In the case of **Windows Vista**, it is disadvised to install **NIPSON** products in the directory '**C:\Program Files**' pointed out above. In that case, the directory :

'C:\Nipson\CompAfpTolpds'

is proposed.

If this destination folder is appropriate, click on '**Next**', else use '**Browse...**' to select another folder (**CompAfpTolpds** can be installed on another disk than disk C:).

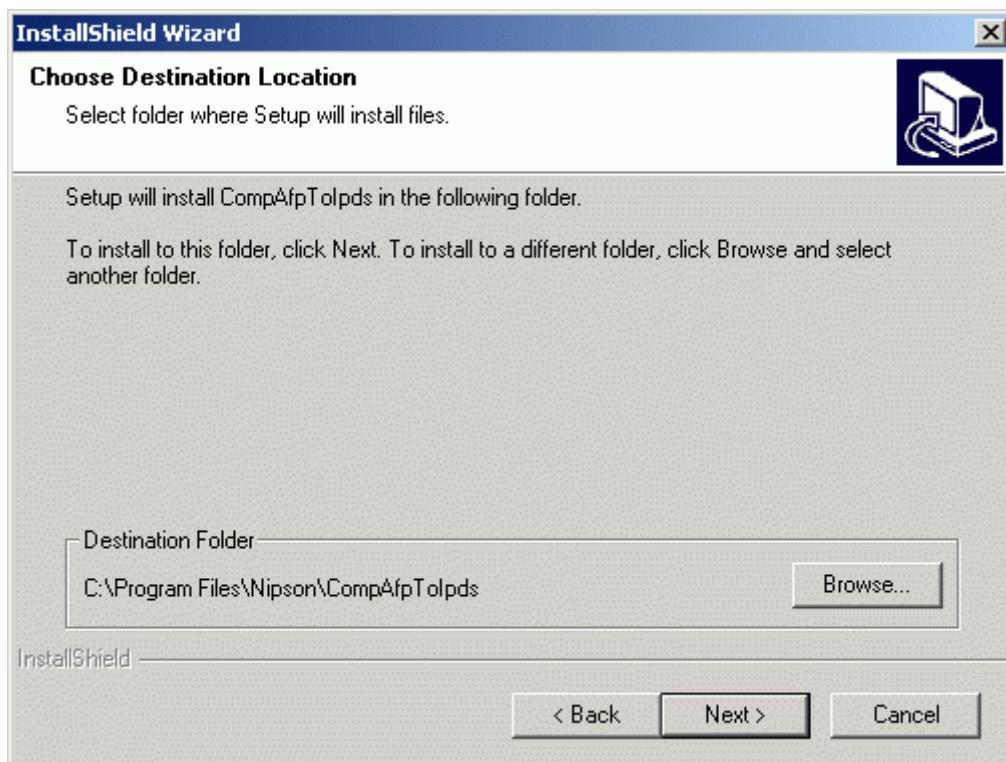


Figure 2-7 CompAfpTolpds installation: Installation directory selection

If you choose another installation place, it is recommended to keep tree members '**Nipson\CompAfpTolpds**' in your new installation directory. Example :

'D:\My Installation\Nipson\CompAfpTolpds'

It should be noted that it is also under this directory that will be placed at the time of the installation a '**Documentation**' directory containing all the documentation of the **CompAfpTolpds** composer.

Click on the '**Next**' button to continue.

A new dialog box summarizes the previous choices:

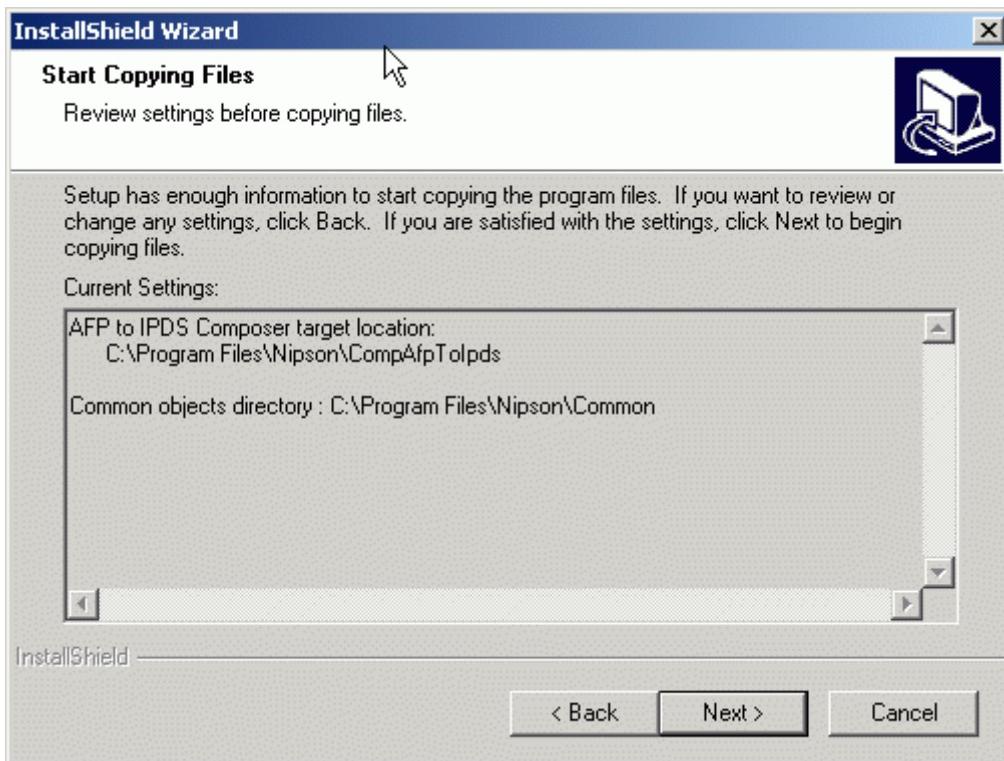


Figure 2-8 CompAfpTolpds installation: Chosen configuration

To modify the previous choices, press on '**Back**' button.

To start the installation, press on '**Next**' button.

Installation

The following window shows the progress report of installation.

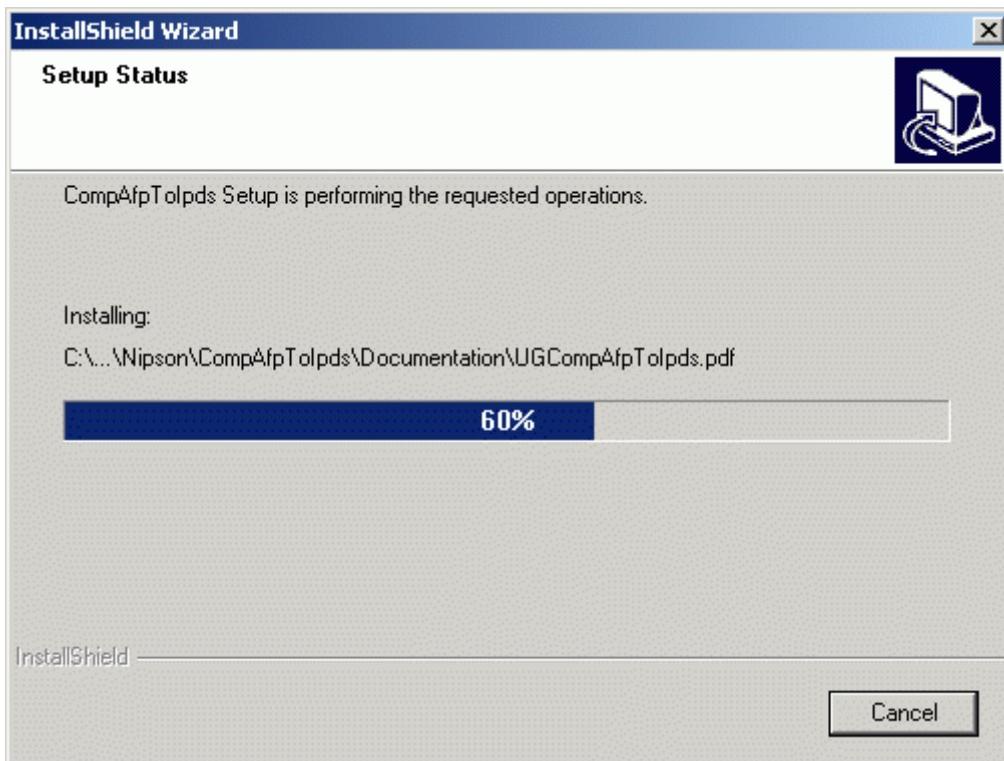


Figure 2-9 CompAfpTolpds installation: Installation in progress

When installation is finished, the following window is displayed:

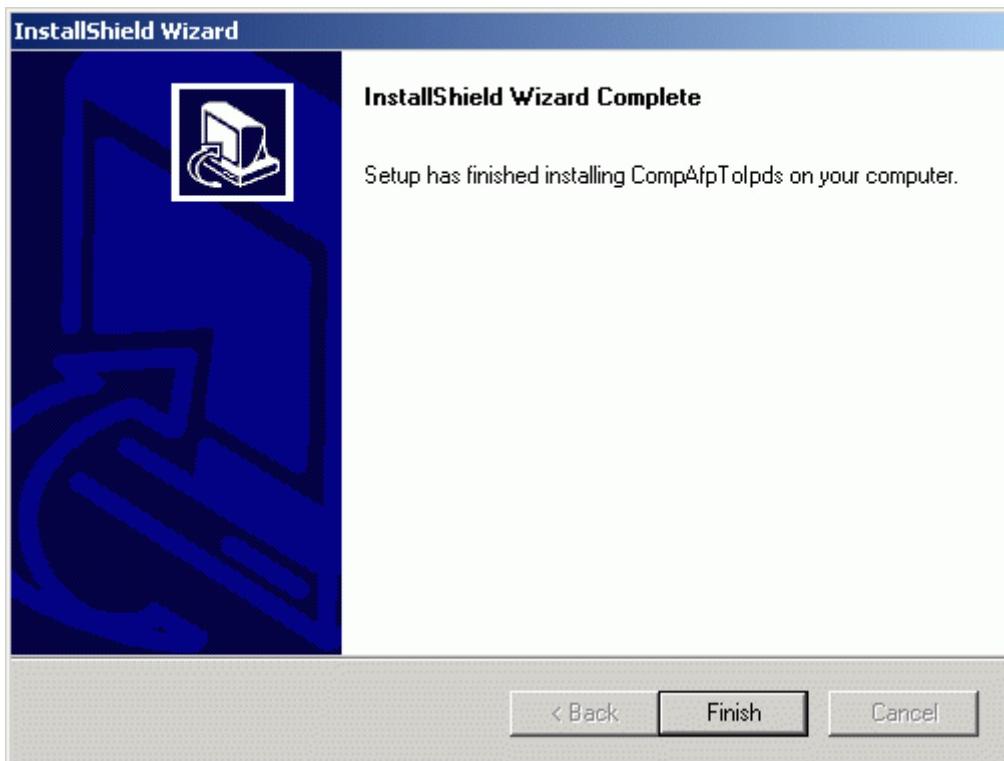


Figure 2-10 CompAfpTolpds installation: Installation finished

Click on the '**Finish**' button to finish and quit installation program.

2.3 STARTING OF COMPAFPITOIPDS COMPOSER

To run **CompAfpTolpds** composer, use the **CompAfpTolpds** command of **Start** menu:

Start->Programs->NIPSON Tools->CompAfpTolpds->CompAfpTolpds

It is also possible to use **CompAfpTolpds** icon on the desktop.

The menu :

Start->Programs-> NIPSON Tools->CompAfpTolpds

created during installation looks as:

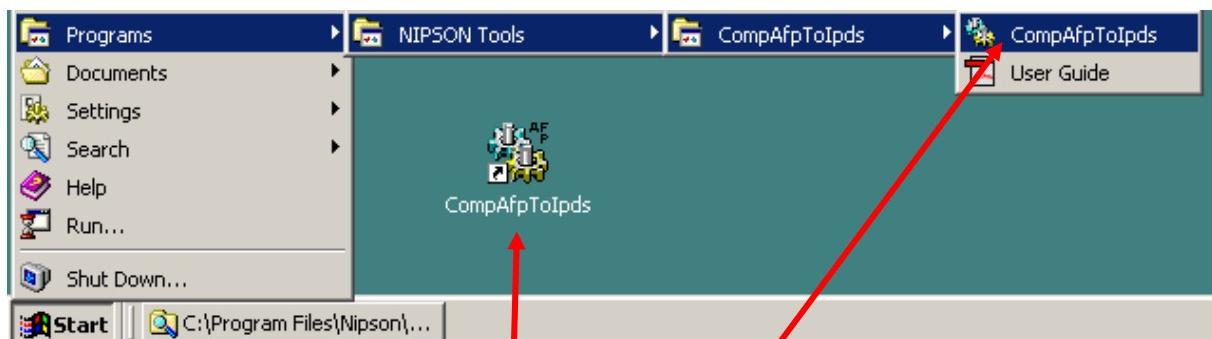


Figure 2-11 Start Menu

- **CompAfpTolpds:** It's the **Composer** application allowing the integration of **CompAfpTolpds** application with **Nipson PrintServer**. It can be started also with the shortcut '**CompAfpTolpds**' created on the desktop.
- **User Guide** is a shortcut allowing to access directly to the documentation file **UGCompAfpTolpds.pdf**.

2.4 UNINSTALLATION

To remove the **CompAfpTolpds** product, use standard tool of Windows **Add/Remove programs**. Select **CompAfpTolpds** in the list and then click on '**Remove**' button.

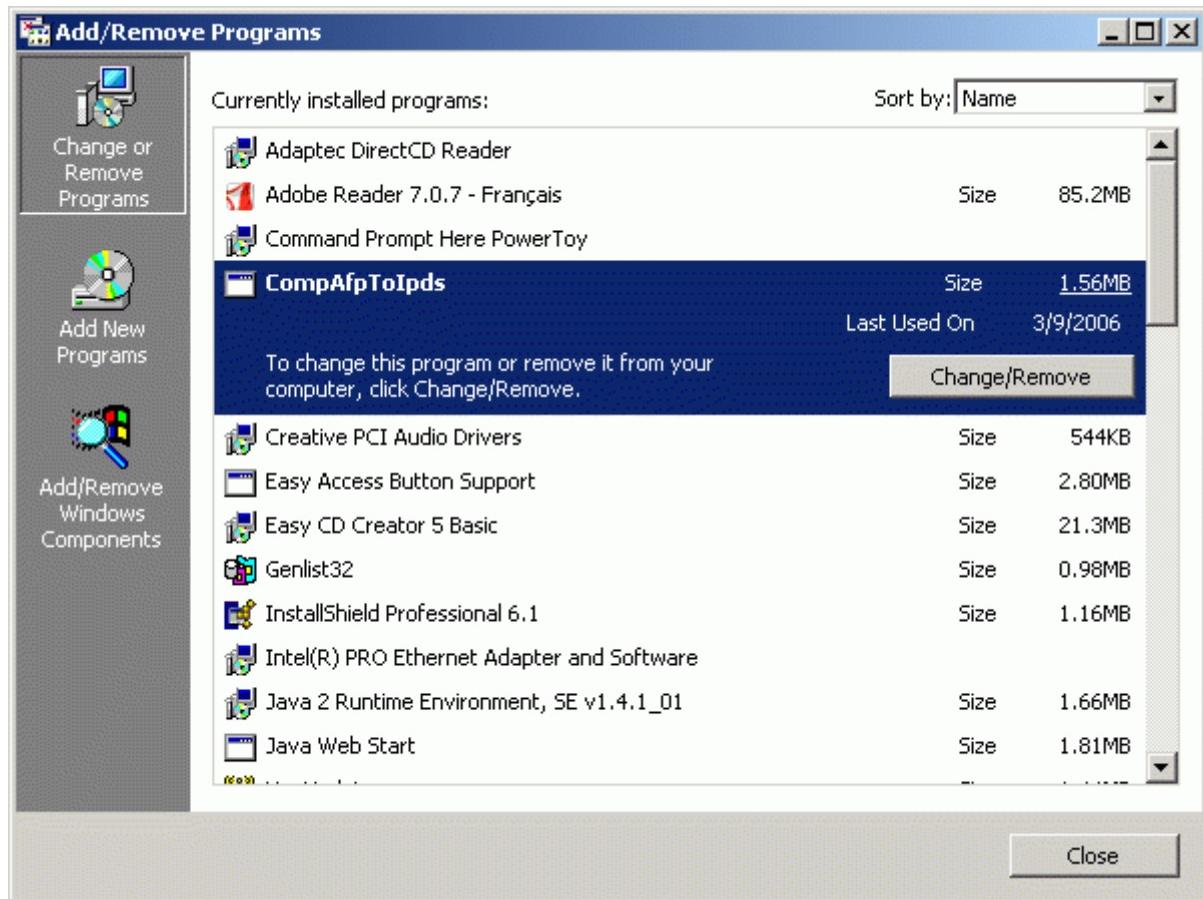


Figure 2-12 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation : Remove program

The following window is displayed during initialization:

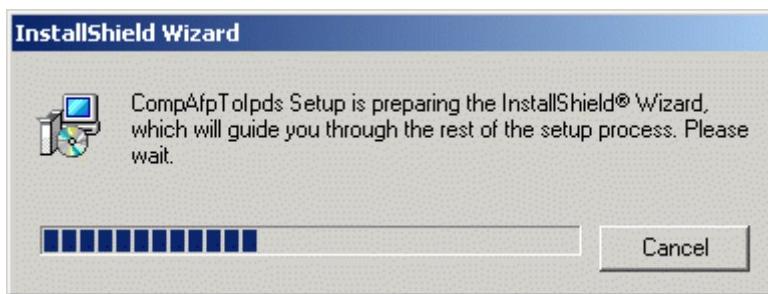


Figure 2-13 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation: Initialization

A message is displayed then recalling that any other NIPSON composer should imperatively be stopped :

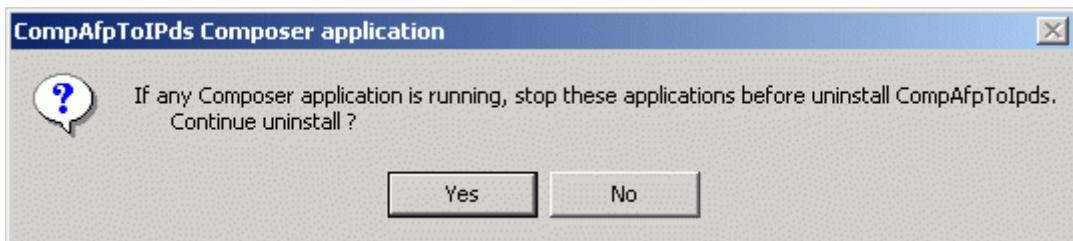


Figure 2-14 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation: Stop Composers

Then, a window of confirmation is displayed:
press on 'OK' to start the uninstallation.

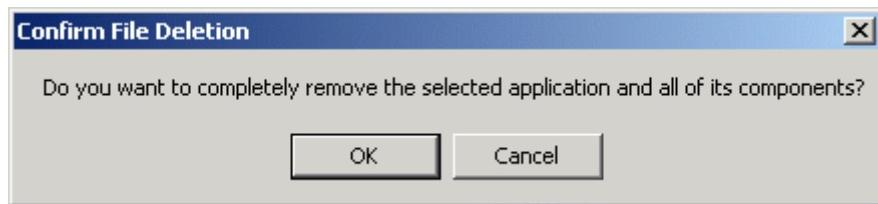


Figure 2-15 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation: Starting

During uninstallation, the following window is displayed:

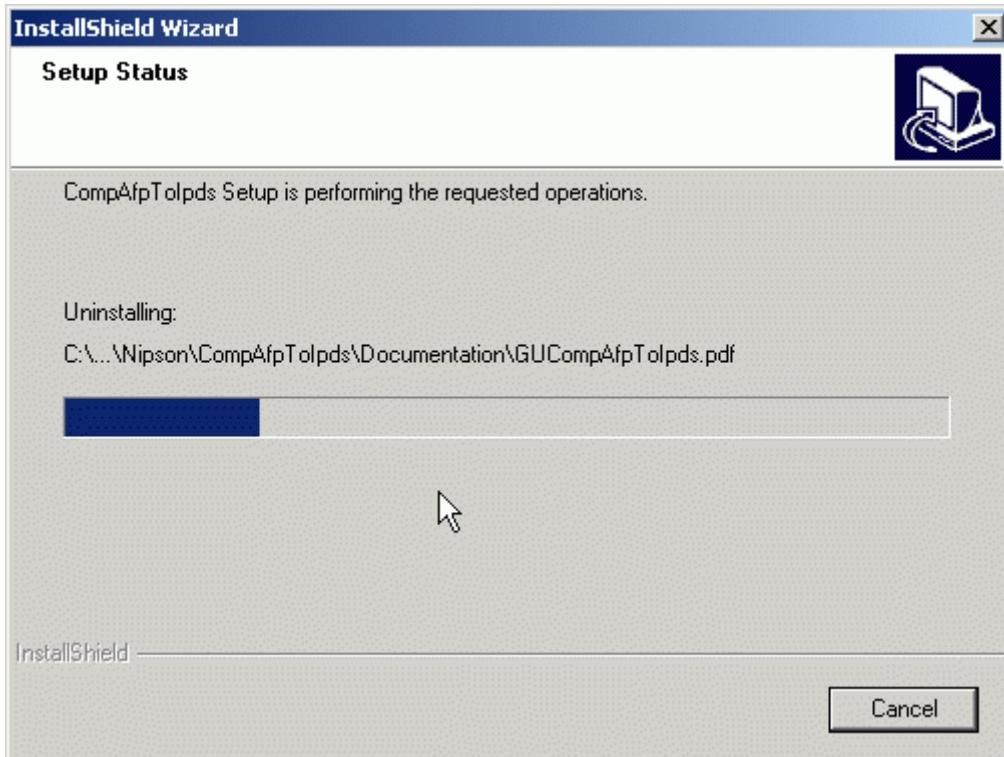


Figure 2-16 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation: Running

The uninstallation program then deletes automatically all that it had installed, including keys in Windows Registry, the shortcuts of the Starting menu and the Desktop.

During the uninstallation, the following window can appear :

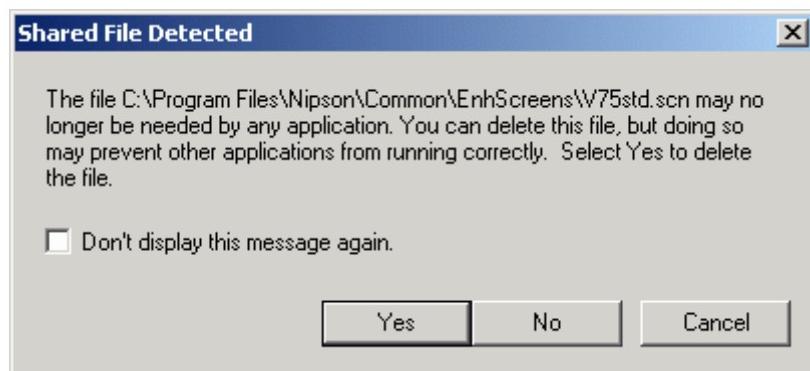


Figure 2-17 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation : Shared Files

Certain files are common to other applications (shared files); They are not deleted during uninstallation, except if it is the last application which uses them which is uninstalled. In this case, this window appears to confirm that one can remove these files. Except particular case, check the box '**Don't display this message again**' and answer '**Yes**' to continue the uninstallation.

When the uninstallation is finished, the following window appears:

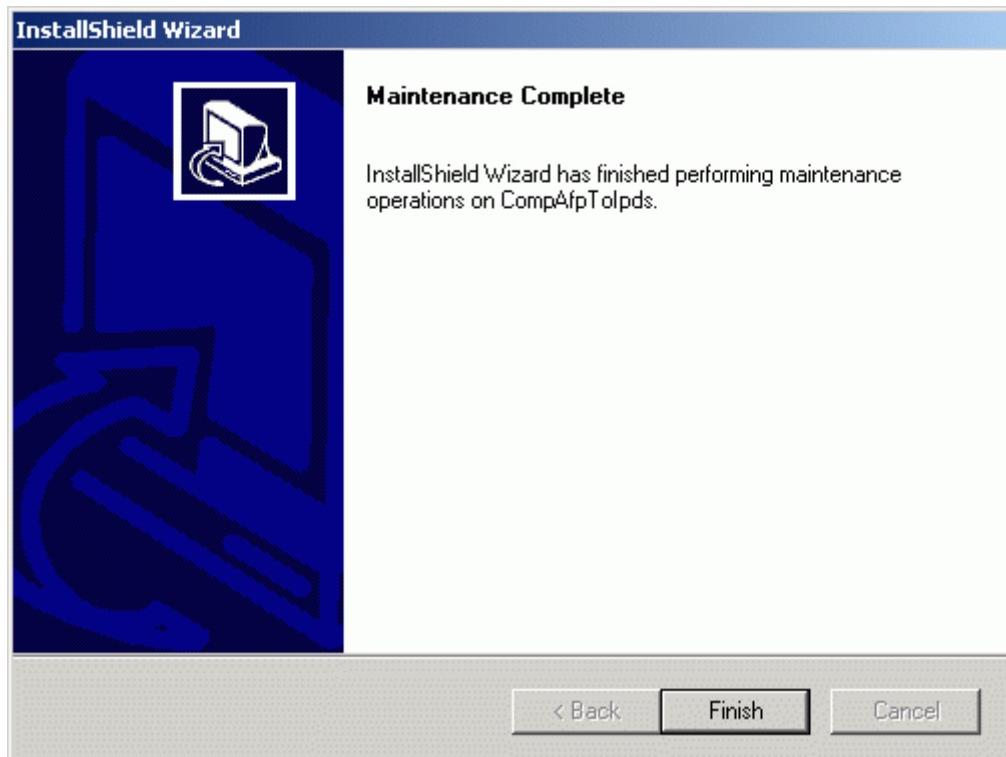


Figure 2-18 CompAfpTolpds uninstallation: Finished

The uninstallation program does not delete the files created after installation, as for example traces files, composition parameters files. Thus directories containing these files remain. To delete product **CompAfpTolpds** completely, the directory '**CompAfpTolpds**' in '**C:\Program Files\Nipson**' should be deleted manually.

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3. Configuration and Customization

3.1 GENERAL

As indicated in the preface, **CompAfpTolpds** application can be associated **Nipson PrintServer** in two different ways :

- Either in **external Composer** : In this case, one uses the **CompAfpTolpds** composer manually to execute the composition of **AFP** jobs in **IPDS**. At the end of the composition, it is possible to generate automatically a printing request for **Nipson PrintServer**. It is enough for that to parameterize the request generation in the composition parameters.
- Either in **integrated Composer**: In this case, **CompAfpTolpds** application becomes a composer controlled automatically by the composition spooler of **Nipson PrintServer**. To compose an **AFP** job in **IPDS**, a composition request should be generated at **Nipson PrintServer** level.

The **CompAfpTolpds** application is in fact composed of two elements :

- The **CompAfpTolpds.exe** application which is the visible part of the composer for the user.
- The **AfpTolpds.exe** application which is the **composition module** properly speaking. It is its which execute the conversion of the **AFP** data stream into **IPDS**. This application does not have a user interface.

The following page shows the tree structure of the **Nipson PrintServer** and Composer **CompAfpTolpds** applications standard installation with the principal directories and files of the installation.

The ‘**Common**’ directory and its sub-directories are common with all **NIPSON** composers. This ‘**Common**’ directory contains in particular :

- The **dll ParamComp5.dll** whose principal functions are :
 - Creation, modification, deleting of composition parameters files for the different **NIPSON** composers,
 - Printing request creation for **Nipson PrintServer** when one works in external composer mode,
 - The configuration of the **Nipson PrintServer** access (VPServer.ini file).
- The **dll ihmtool.dll** which manages the image processing parameters files: **.pqf** files of the ‘**EnhParam**’ directory.
- The ‘**EnhScreens**’ directory of the **NIPSON** screens (**.scn** files) used for the images processing.

Tree structure of a Nipson PrintServer and CompAfpToIpds applications standard installation :

```

C:\Program Files\Nipson \
    or
C:\Nipson \                                Installation standard directory if Windows Vista

    \Common\Bin \ParamComp5.dll
        |          \ihmtool.dll

        \EnhConfig\EnhConfigClr.pqf

        \EnhParam\*.pqf

        \EnhScreens\*.scn

    \CompAfpToIpds \CompAfpToIpds.exe
        \AfpToIpds.exe
        \CompAfpToIpds.ini
        \VPServer.ini
        |
        \Documentation\UGCompAfpToIpds.pdf

        \ParamComp \ParamComp1, ParamComp2
            \..., ParamCompn

        \Resources \*
            \Formdefs\F1LDSDPX, F1LDSSPX, ...
            \Pagedefs\P1300A3, P1300A4, ...

        \Traces\CompAfpToIpds_ComposerName1.txt
            \CompAfpToIpds_ComposerName1.old
            \CompAfpToIpds_ComposerName2.txt
            \CompAfpToIpds_ComposerName2.old
            \AfpToIpds_ComposerName1.txt
            \AfpToIpds_ComposerName1.old
            \AfpToIpds_ComposerName2.txt
            \AfpToIpds_ComposerName2.old

        \Logs \CompAfpToIpds_ComposerName1.log
            \CompAfpToIpds_ComposerName2.log

    \PrintServer \VPServer.exe
        \VPServer.mdb
        \VPServer.txt
        \VPServer.old
        \ConvVPDataBase.dll
        \StartView.js
        |
        \RequestsOffLine\*.rol
        |
        \Doc\*.pdf

```

3.2 CONCEPT OF LOGICAL COMPOSER

In **integrated composer mode**, the composer is a composition server for **Nipson PrintServer**. This server is listening to a connection on a **TCP/IP Port**. A logical name is associated with this port number : This defines a **logical composer**.

It is thus possible to create on a same station several logical composers, different names being associated to different **TCP/IP** port number. That implies that one can execute several instances of the composition module. It is the case for the **CompAfpTolpds** composer.

The **CompAfpTolpds** application can be executed in two different ways :

- Start without parameter in the command line : In this case, **CompAfpTolpds** starts in '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**' mode (**Configuration mode**).
- Start with a parameter which is the name of a defined logical composer : In this case, **CompAfpTolpds** starts in '**logical composer**' mode and is a composition server for **Nipson PrintServer**.

3.3 LOGICAL COMPOSER CONFIGURATION

To start the **CompAfpTolpds** composer in ‘**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**’ mode use the menu :

Start->Programs->NIPSON Tools->CompAfpTolpds->CompAfpTolpds

One can also use the shortcut ‘**CompAfpTolpds**’ created on the desktop at the time of installation. These two shortcuts starts the application **CompAfpTolpds** without parameter.

At the first start, there is the following window :

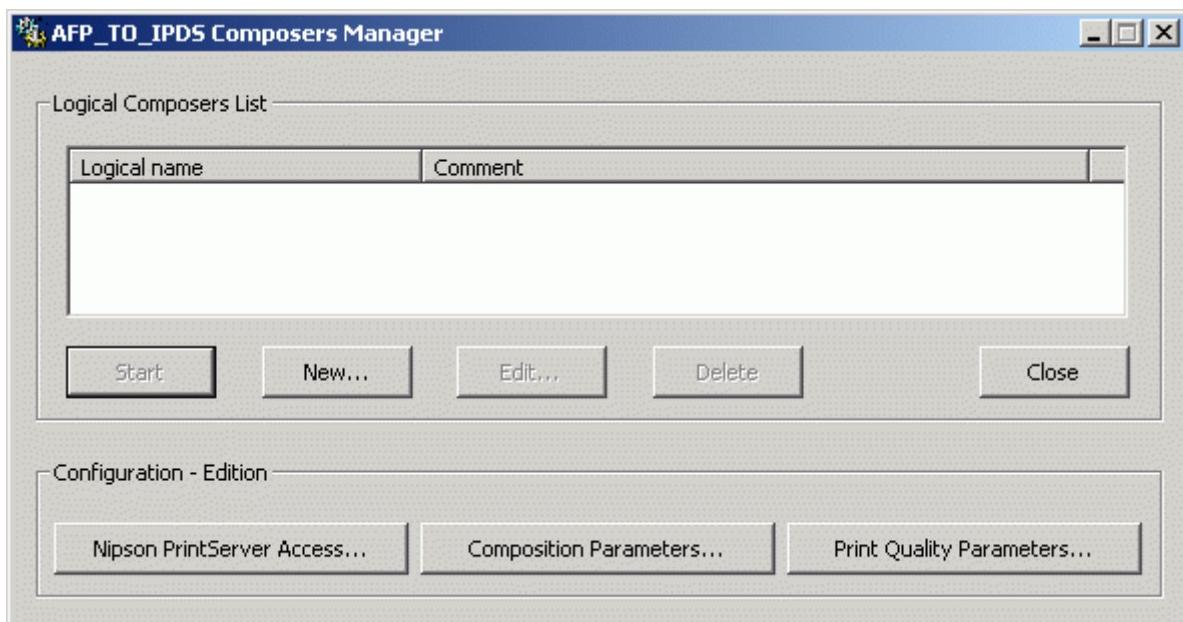


Figure 3-1 CompAfpTolpds in Composers Manager mode

This dialog box contains two parts :

- **The logical composers list** with name and associated comment, and the following buttons :
 - ‘**New...**’ allows to create a new logical composer.
 - ‘**Edit...**’ allows to edit the logical composer selected in the list.
 - ‘**Delete**’ allows to delete the logical composer selected in the list.
 - ‘**Start**’ allows to start the logical composer selected in the list.
 - ‘**Close**’ allows to close the dialog box.
- **A Configuration - Edition area** with the following buttons :
 - ‘**Nipson PrintServer Access...**’ allows to access to the dialog box ‘**Nipson PrintServer Access Configuration**’ : Configuration of the connection parameters to Nipson PrintServer. (See chapter 3.4).
 - ‘**Composition Parameters...**’ allows to access to the dialog box ‘**Composition parameters file Manager**’. These parameters files are selected and used for the composition (See chapter 3.5).
 - ‘**Print Quality Files...**’ allows to access to the dialog box ‘**Print Quality parameters Manager for Nipson printers**’: Parameters files for the images processing : Report to **UG_PQF_FilesManager.pdf** document.

Click on the icon on the left in title bar shows the system menu :

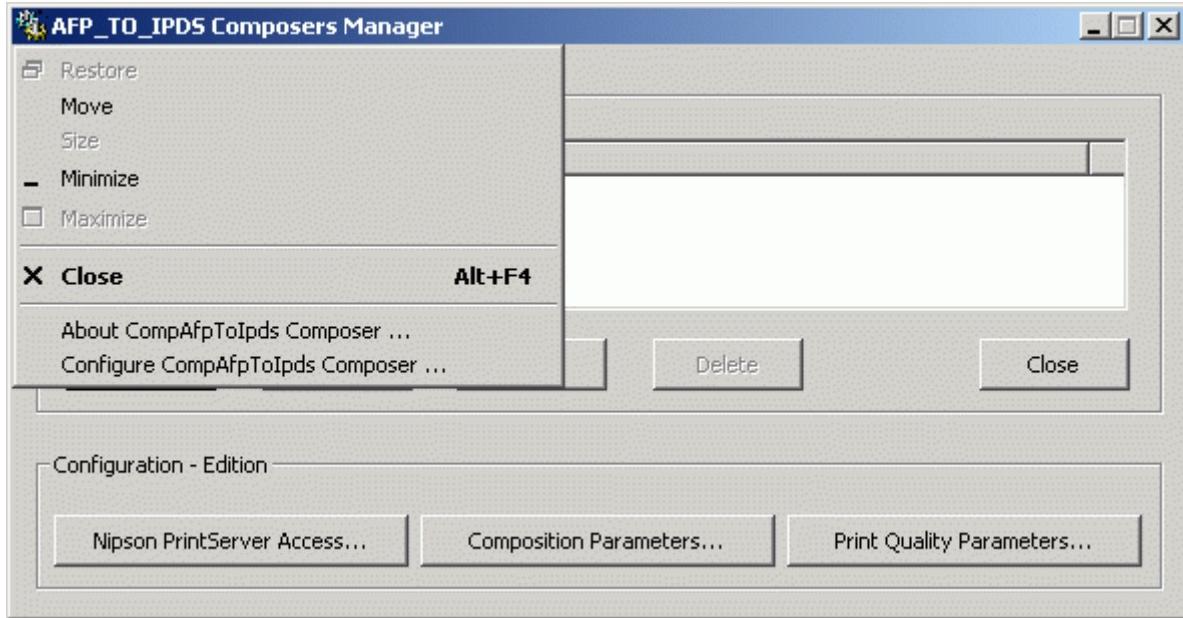


Figure 3-2 System Menu in Composers Manager mode

The system menu allows to access to the application ‘**About**’ dialog box, this one making it possible to see the application version.

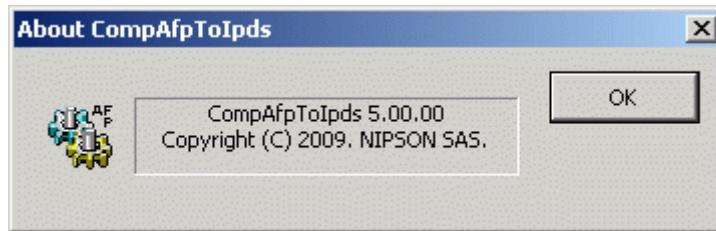


Figure 3-3 ‘About’ Dialog Box

The system menu also allows to access to the ‘**CompAfpToIpds Composer Configuration**’ dialog box, this one making it possible to select the language of the application.

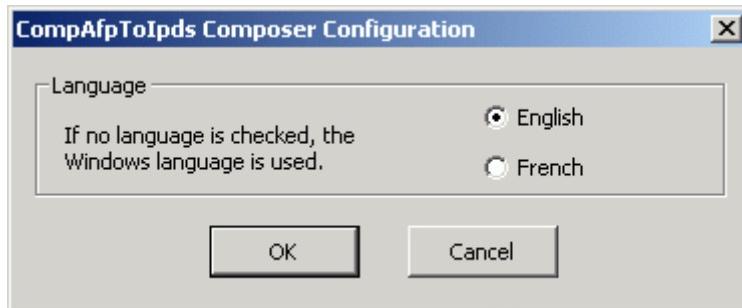


Figure 3-4 ‘CompAfpToIpds Composer Configuration’ Dialog Box

3.3.1 New logical composer creation

Click on the ‘**New...**’ button shows the following window :

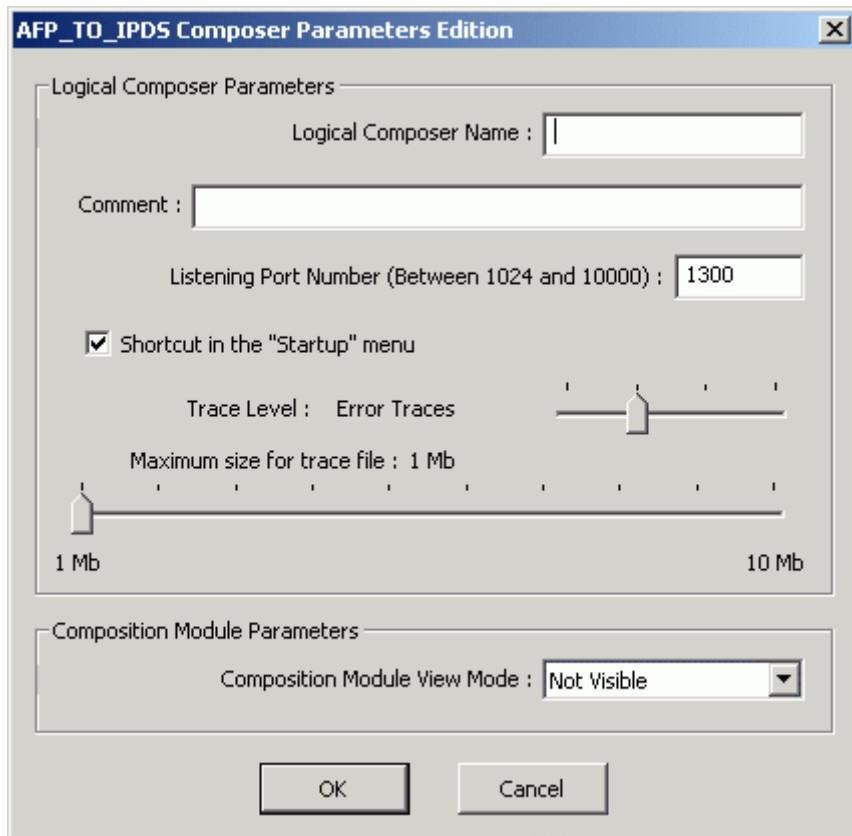


Figure 3-5 New logical composer

- **Logical Composer Name** : This parameter is mandatory. Give a name to the logical composer. It can be judicious to give it the same name as the composer defined in **Nipson PrintServer**, but it is not obligatory. The name is limited to 32 characters. This name is that which it is necessary to pass in parameter to **CompAfpTolpds** to start the composer.
- **Comment** : Comment allowing to specify the characteristics of the composer. This comment appears in the logical composers list.
- **Listening Port Number** : The composer being a server application, will be with listening on this port (Socket) waiting for a **Nipson PrintServer** application connection. If the port proposed by default (1300) is not used on the station, keep this value.
- **Shortcut in the ‘Startup menu’** : Check this checkbox so that a shortcut is created in the ‘**Startup menu**’ if it be wished that the logical composer created starts automatically with the session opening. This shortcut is in fact the command :

CompAfpTolpds.exe ComposerName

where **ComposerName** is the name given to the logical composer.
- **Trace Level and Maximum size for trace file** : The **CompAfpTolpds** application can generate a traces file. 4 levels of traces can be selected :
 - No trace.
 - Error Traces.
 - Normal Traces.

- All Traces.

Traces are placed in a file named '**CompAfpTolpds_ComposerName.txt**' in the directory :

C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpTolpds\Traces

where **ComposerName** is the name given to the logical composer.

The maximum size of this file can be defined between 1 and 10 Mbytes. When the maximum size is reached, the traces file is renamed in '**CompAfpTolpds_ComposerName.old**' and a new file '**CompAfpTolpds_ComposerName.txt**' is created.

- **Composition Module View Mode** : At the composition time, the **CompAfpTolpds** application starts the composition module itself, here the **AfpTolpds.exe** application. This parameter indicates how this composition module appears on the screen. It can be :
 - **Visible Nomal** : The **AfpTolpds.exe** application will appear in a Windows console type window.
 - **Visible Iconic** : The **AfpTolpds.exe** application will be visible only in the form of icon in the taskbar. A click on this icon then makes it possible to visualize the application.
 - **Not Visible** : The **AfpTolpds.exe** application is not visible, it is executed without its user interface.

3.3.2 Editing a logical composer

After creation of a logical composer or at the **CompAfpToIpds** starting in the case where a logical composer is already created, there is the following window :

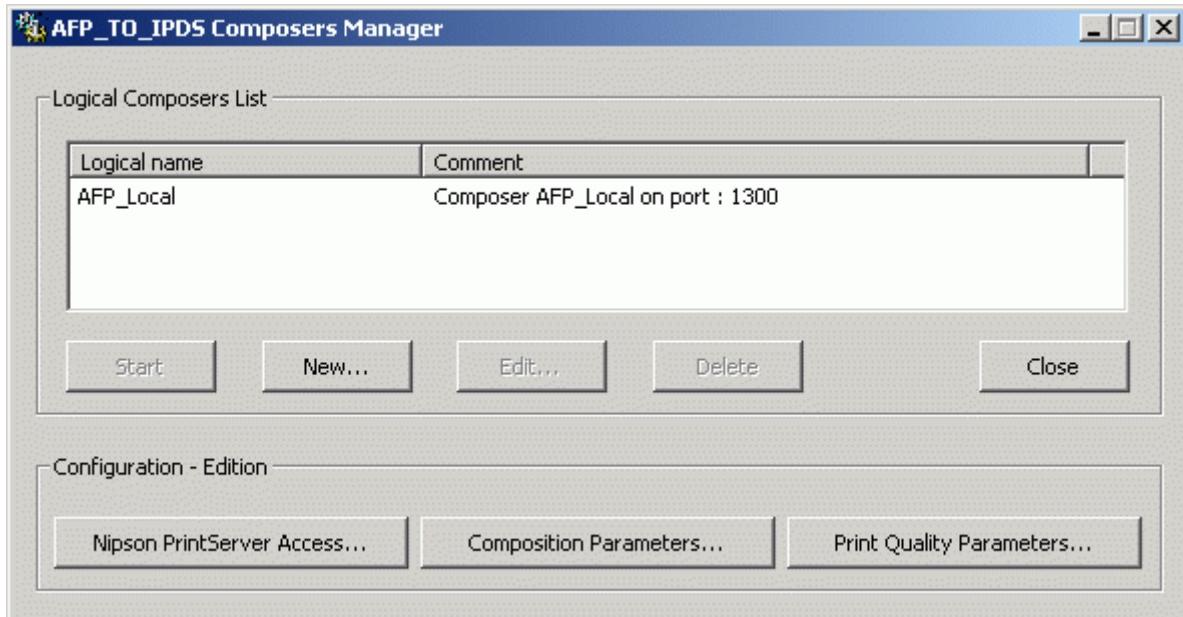


Figure 3-6 CompAfpToIpds in Composers Manager mode

Note that if no logical composer is selected in the list, the '**Start**', '**Edit...**', '**Delete**' buttons are disabled.

Note also that the '**New...**' button is enabled, because in the case of **CompAfpToIpds**, like already previously explained, several logical composers can be created on a given station.

To edit the logical composer parameters, select it in the list. There is then the following window :

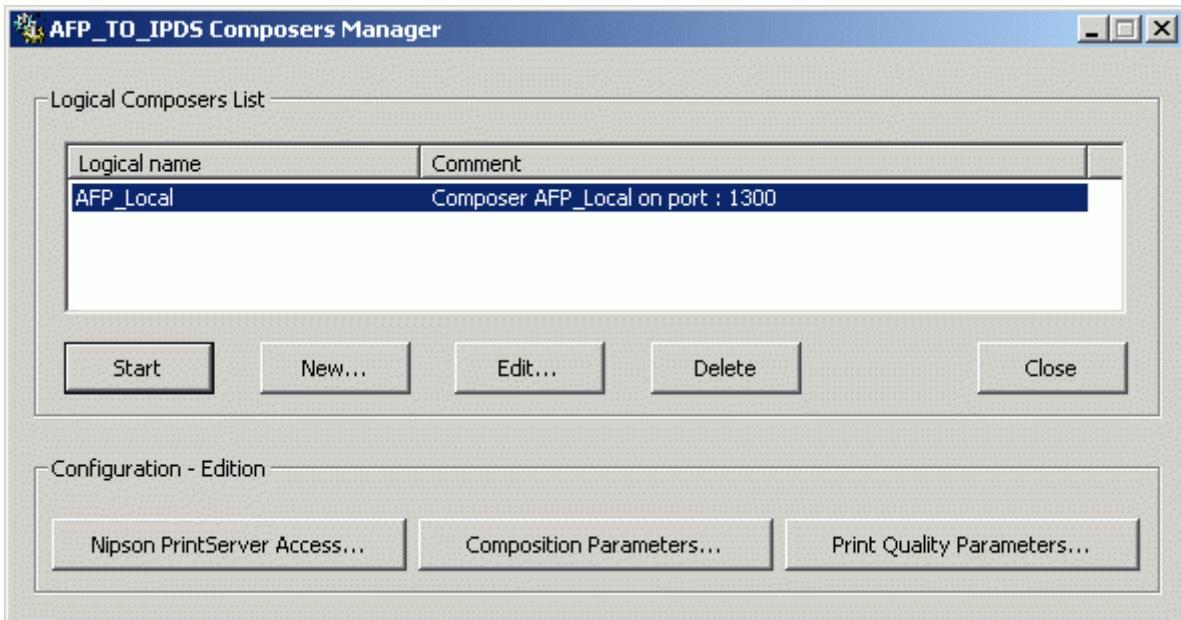


Figure 3-7 CompAfpToIpds in Composers Manager mode

A logical composer being selected, the '**Start**', '**Edit...**', '**Delete**' buttons are enabled.

Click on the '**Delete**' button shows the following window :

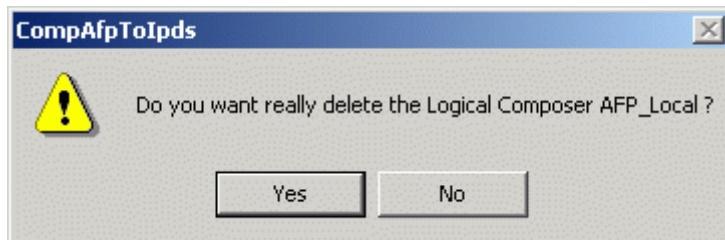


Figure 3-8 Delete a logical composer

And if one answers yes, the logical composer is deleted.

Note that if a shortcut has been created in the '**Startup**' menu for this logical composer, it will be automatically deleted.

Click on the ‘Edit...’ button of the ‘**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**’ dialog box shows for example the following window :

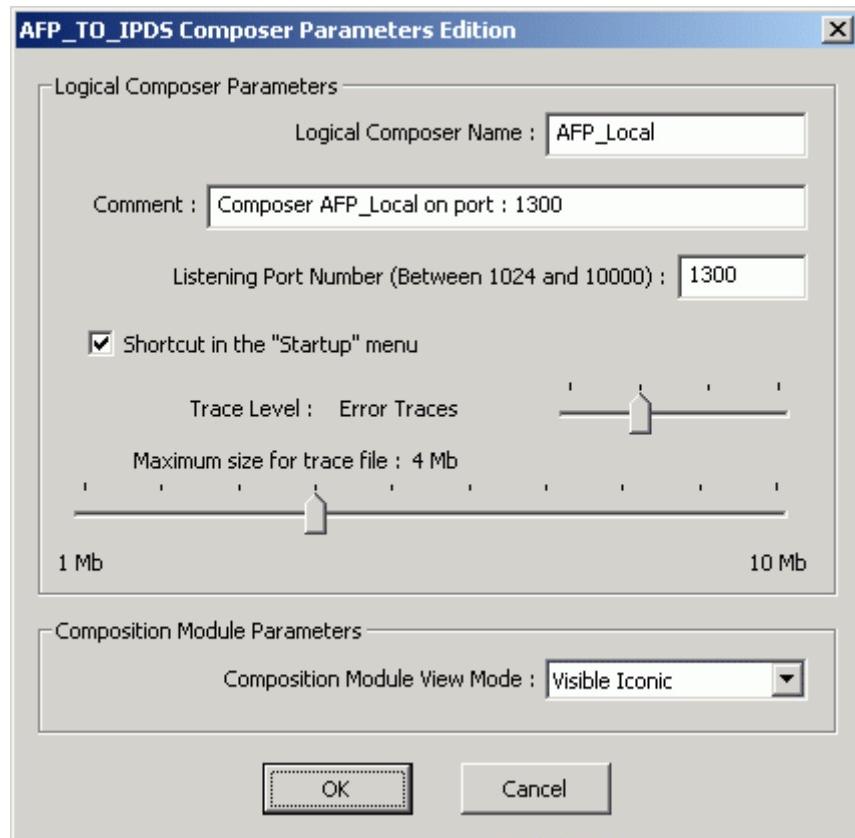


Figure 3-9 Editing a logical composer

It is the same dialog box as that of the ‘**New...**’ function described above.

3.4 NIPSON PRINTSERVER CONNECTION CONFIGURATION

In the dialog box '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**', use '**Nipson PrintServer Access...**' button to open the '**Nipson PrintServer Access Configuration**' dialog box :

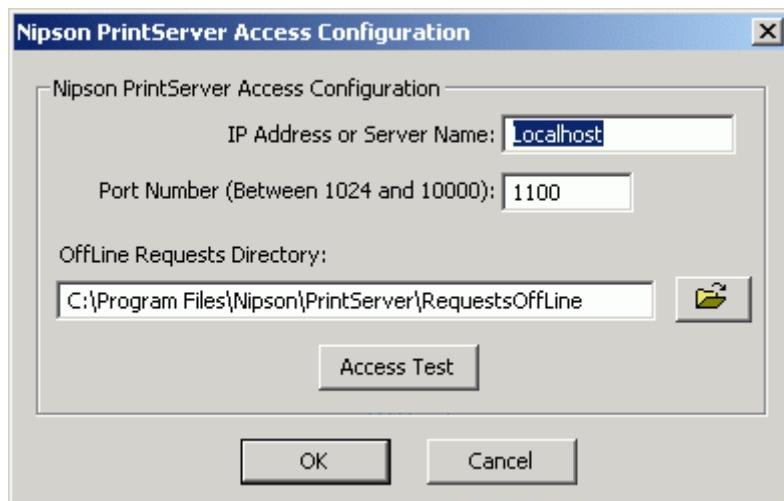


Figure 3-10 Nipson PrintServer Access Configuration

This dialog box allows to define the connection parameters to a **Nipson PrintServer** application.

If one wants to use a connection with a **Nipson PrintServer** application in **External CompAfpTolpds** mode, it is necessary to define the following parameters:

1. '**IP Address or Server Name**' : Give here the IP address or the station name on which the **Nipson PrintServer** application is installed. If this station is the same one as the **CompAfpTolpds** station, this parameter also should be defined.
2. '**Port Number**' : This communication port number, 1100 by default, must be the same one as the listening port number defined in the **Nipson PrintServer** application.
3. '**OffLine Requests Directory**' : This field allows to define the **OffLine Requests directory**: This directory is **Nipson PrintServer** application directory in which **CompAfpTolpds** writes the requests being submitted in files (.rol extension) when it could not be connected to the **Nipson PrintServer** application (for example, if this one is stopped). This makes it possible to not lose the requests, this one being automatically taken into account by the **Nipson PrintServer** application when it starts. This directory has as a name **RequestsOffLine** and is in the case of a standard installation of the **Nipson PrintServer** product in the directory:

C:\Program Files\Nipson\PrintServer\

Use the browser button  to search this directory directly. If the **Nipson PrintServer** application and the **CompAfpTolpds** application aren't on the same station, this directory must be shared on the network. Select it by using navigation on the network.

The following figures show two cases of **Nipson PrintServer** connection parameters:

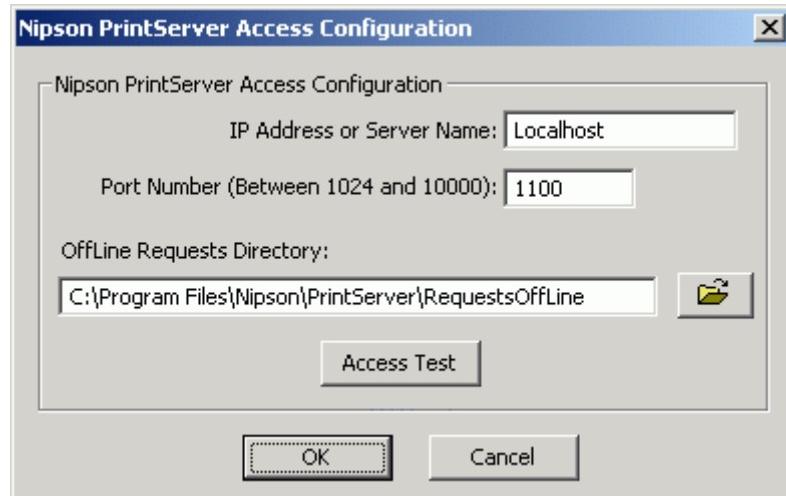


Figure 3-11 CompAfpTolpds local Configuration

In this first example, it acts of a configuration where **CompAfpTolpds** and **Nipson PrintServer** are on the same station.

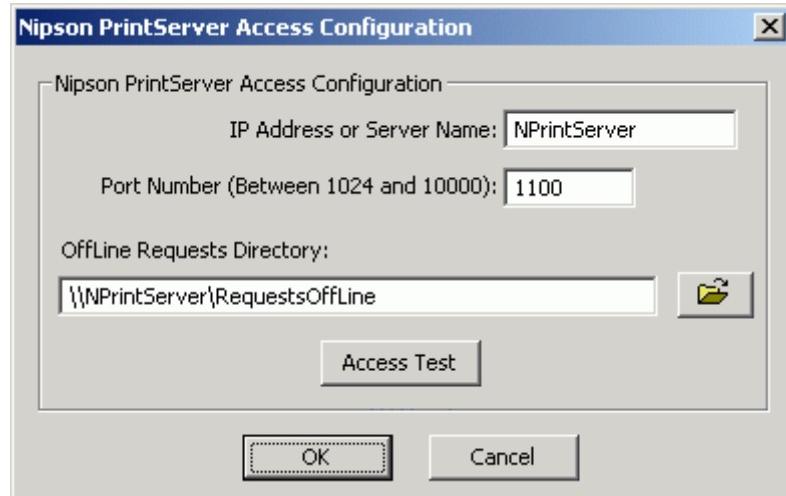


Figure 3-12 CompAfpTolpds network Configuration

In this second example, it acts of a configuration where **CompAfpTolpds** and **Nipson PrintServer** are on different stations. In the example, NPrintServer is the name of the station on which **Nipson PrintServer** is installed.

When these parameters are defined, the '**Access Test**' button makes it possible to check that connection with the **Nipson PrintServer** application is Ok. For that, the **Nipson PrintServer** application must be running.

The test proceeds in 3 phases with showing a message for each one of it :

Step 1 :

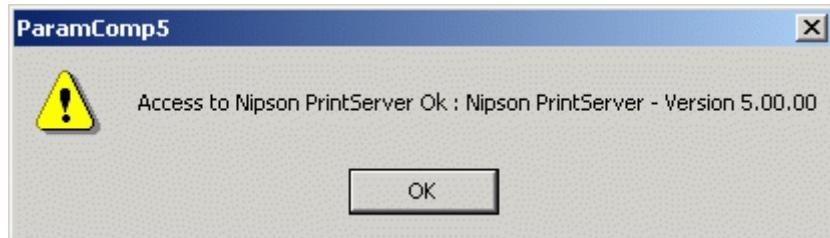


Figure 3-13 CompAfpTolpds Configuration : Step 1 Access Test

In the first phase, **CompAfpTolpds** establishes a connection with **Nipson PrintServer** and request the version number of the application.

Step 2 :

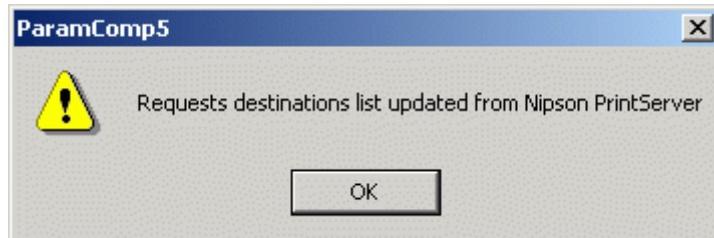


Figure 3-14 CompAfpTolpds Configuration : Step 2 Access Test

In the second phase, **CompAfpTolpds** requires of **Nipson PrintServer** the defined destinations list (Groups or printing Queues) and memorizes them locally to use them in the requests parameters dialog box. (See chapter 3.5.2).

Step 3 :



Figure 3-15 CompAfpTolpds Configuration : Step 3 Access Test

In the third phase, **CompAfpTolpds** requires of **Nipson PrintServer** the defined papers list and memorizes them locally to use them in the requests parameters dialog box. (See chapter 3.5.2).

3.5 COMPOSITION PARAMETERS

The composition parameters files **AFP_TO_IPDS** are files without extension stored in the directory :

'C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpToIpds\ParamComp'

3.5.1 Composition parameters files Manager for AFP_TO_IPDS

In the dialog box '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**', use '**Composition Parameters...**' button to open the '**Composition parameters files Manager for AFP_TO_IPDS**' dialog box :

This command opens the following dialog box :

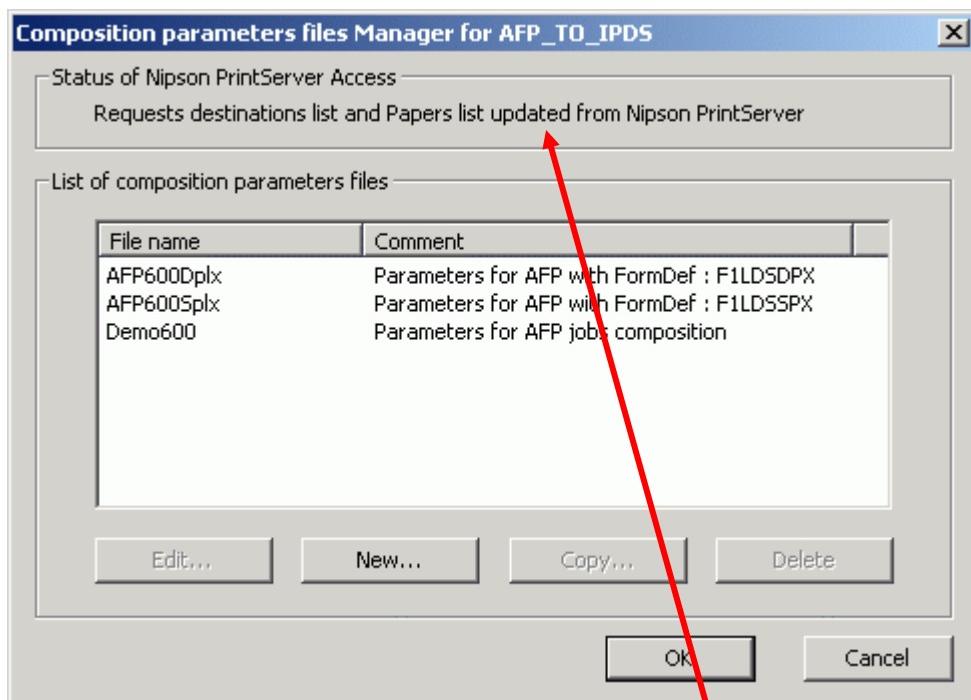


Figure 3-16 AFP_TO_IPDS composition parameters files list

At the time of the dialog box opening, if a connection with a **Nipson PrintServer** application is defined (case of an **external CompAfpToIpds**), the composer tries to connect itself to this application to obtain and update the printing request destinations list and the papers list. If the connection is possible and is successful, the message above is viewed when opening the dialog box.

If the connection with **Nipson PrintServer** isn't defined or is incorrect, the message below is viewed when opening the dialog box.

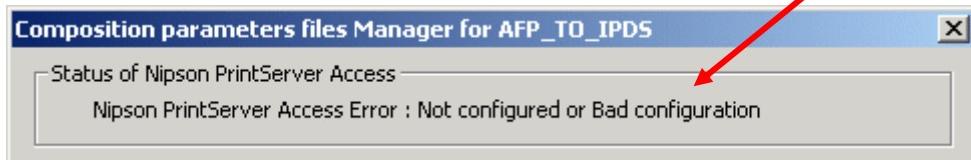


Figure 3-17 Incorrect access to Nipson PrintServer

If the connection with **Nipson PrintServer** isn't possible (**Nipson PrintServer** stopped or network not available), the message below is viewed when opening the dialog box.

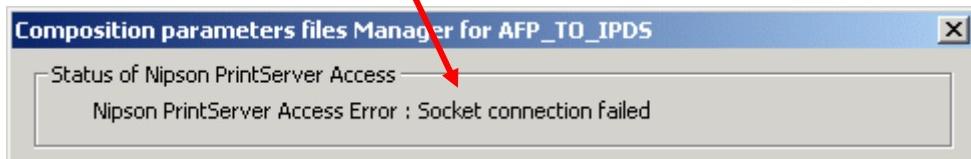


Figure 3-18 Access to Nipson PrintServer failed

The window '**Composition parameters files Manager for AFP_TO_IPDS**' displays the list of existing parameters files with an associated comment. It allows to create, delete and edit the parameters files.

To create a new parameters file, use the '**New...**' button. In this case, a default parameter setting is used to initialize the parameters for a new file.

To create a new parameters file, it is also possible to select an existing file and to create a copy of these parameters using the '**Copy...**' button.

The '**Edit...**' button allows to modify the selected file.

The '**Delete**' button allows to delete the selected file.

3.5.2 AFP_TO_IPDS Composition Parameters

The parameters dialog box appears as indicated in the figure hereafter. The parameters are gathered in four tabs : the main composition parameters, the imposition specific parameters, the specific parameters for the AFP into IPDS composition and finally, the parameters for the printing request generation to be submitted to a **Nipson PrintServer** application.

It should be noted that the tabs **Main Parameters**, **Imposition Parameters** and **Request Parameters** are common to all composer types; A certain number of parameters are disabled because they do not have utility in the case of the **CompAfpToIpds** composer.

The first tab '**Main Parameters**' :

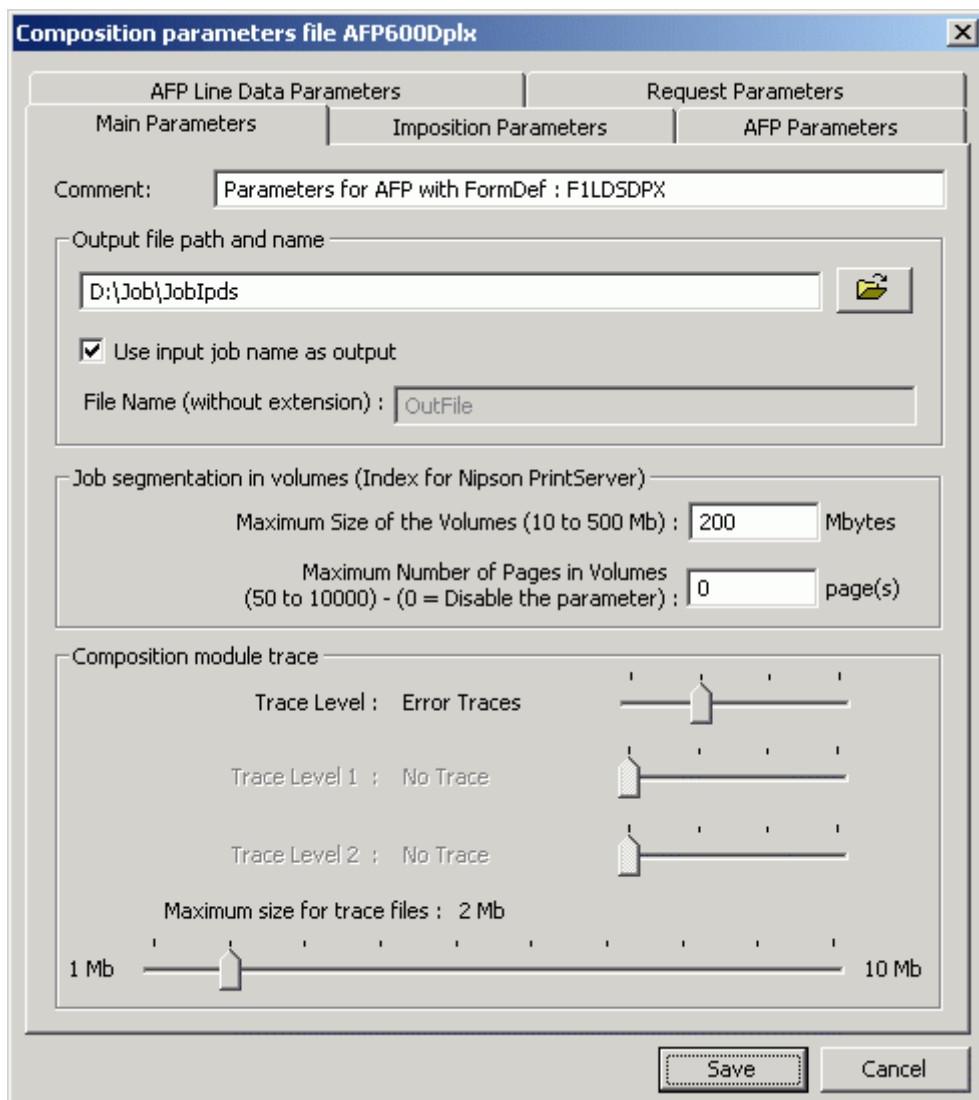


Figure 3-19 Parameters file : 'Main Parameters' tab

Note that the '**Save**' button in this dialog box is replaced by a '**Save As...**' button when it is a new parameters file (Access by '**New...**' or '**Copy...**').

The first tab '**Main Parameters**' allows to define the following parameters:

- **Comment** : It allows to associate a comment to the parameters file. This comment appears in the parameters files list of the dialog box '**Composition parameters file Manager for AFP_TO_IPDS**' and it makes the identification of the parameters file better. The maximum length of this comment is 255 characters.
- **Output file path and name** allows to select the output directory for **IPDS** files generated by the composition module. It is possible to indicate:
 - a directory on a local disk (for example : d:\Jobs\lpds) if **Nipson PrintServer** is installed on the same station
 - a directory identified with its network name (for example : <\\NPrintServer\Jobs\lpds>) if **Nipson PrintServer** is installed on another station than the composer.

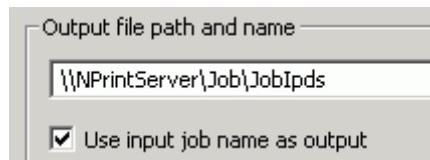


Figure 3-20 Parameters file : Network path

Add then manually the name of the output file in **File name** or check **Use input job name as output** (recommended option) ; The output file has then the same name as input file with **.ipds** extension.

Caution: If **Use job name as output** option is checked, if the name of the input file contains a name with space characters or some special characters, those are automatically replaced by the character '_' or 'x' so that the name of the output file is compatible with its use in the printer or other NIPSON software. In particular, the IPDS files names should not contain 'space' characters.

- **Volumes segmentation :**

The two parameters '**Maximum Size (in MBytes) of Job Volumes**' and '**Maximum Number of Pages in Job Volumes**' make it possible to define the maximum size of **volumes (files)** **IPDS** according to two criteria: either a size of file, or a number of pages. At the composition time, as soon as the current volume size or number of pages of current volume reaches the maximum value indicated, volume is closed and another is created. For the volume size, use values going from 10 to 500 MBytes. 200 Mbytes size is a good value.

For the number of pages of a volume, use values going from 50 to 10000. 5000 pages is a good value. One can also specify a zero value to disable this parameter (In this case, only the size is used for segmentation).

- **Composition module traces :**

While IPDS composition, a traces file can be asked. 4 levels of traces can be selected :

- No Trace.
- Error Traces.
- Normal Traces.
- All Traces.

The traces are stored in a file named '**AfpTolpds_ComposerName.txt**' in the directory :

C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpTolpds\Traces

where **ComposerName** is the logical composer name.

The maximum size of this file can be defined between 1 and 10 Mbytes. When the maximum size is reached, the file of traces is renamed in '**AfpTolpds_ComposerName.old**' and a new file '**AfpTolpds_ComposerName.txt**' is created.

Caution : Concerning the **IPDS** file names, at the composition time of a new job, if the required **IPDS** file name already exists, this one isn't overwritten, but a new file is created while adding to the required name an automatic indexing '_**n**' where **n** is an automatically incremented number.

The second tab '**Imposition Parameters**' :

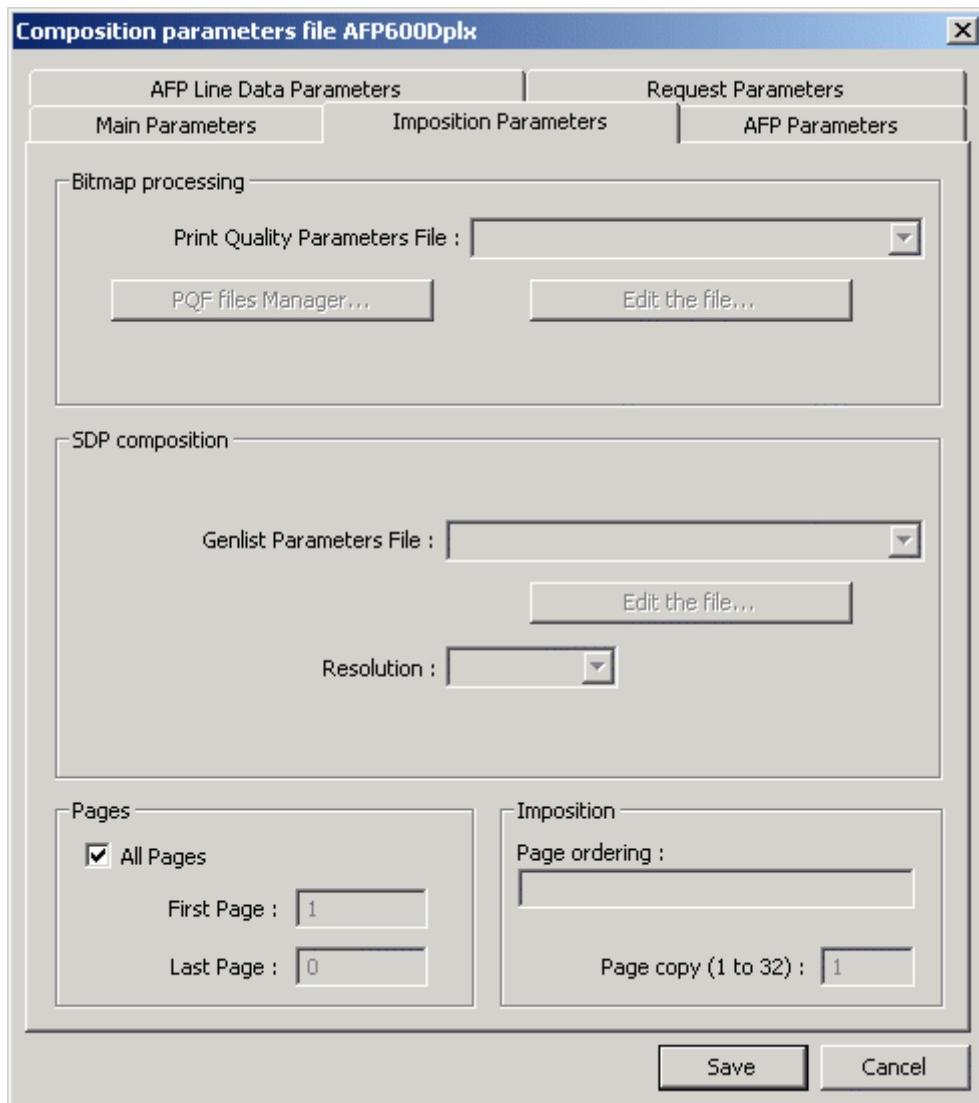


Figure 3-21 Parameters file : 'Imposition Parameters' tab

The second tab '**Imposition Parameters**' allows to define the following parameters:

- **Pages :**
 - . **All** : If checked, the output file contains the whole pages of the input file. If not it is possible to select an interval of pages to be composed by indicating the numbers of the first and the last page.
- **Print Quality Parameters File** allows to select the **.pqf** file to use for the images processing. The list-box gives the list of all the **.pqf** files created with the button '**Print Quality Parameters...**' of the composer in Composers Manager mode. The button '**PQF Files Manager...**' allows to access directly to the Print Quality parameters Manager. The button '**Edit the file...**' allows to access directly to the edition of **.pqf** file selected in the combo box. This parameter is validated (and thus used) only if the check box '**Color images processing at composer level**' of the tab '**AFP Parameters**' is validated.

- The other parameters on this tab are not enabled and are not useful in the case of **CompAfpToIpds** composer.

The third tab '**AFP Parameters**' :

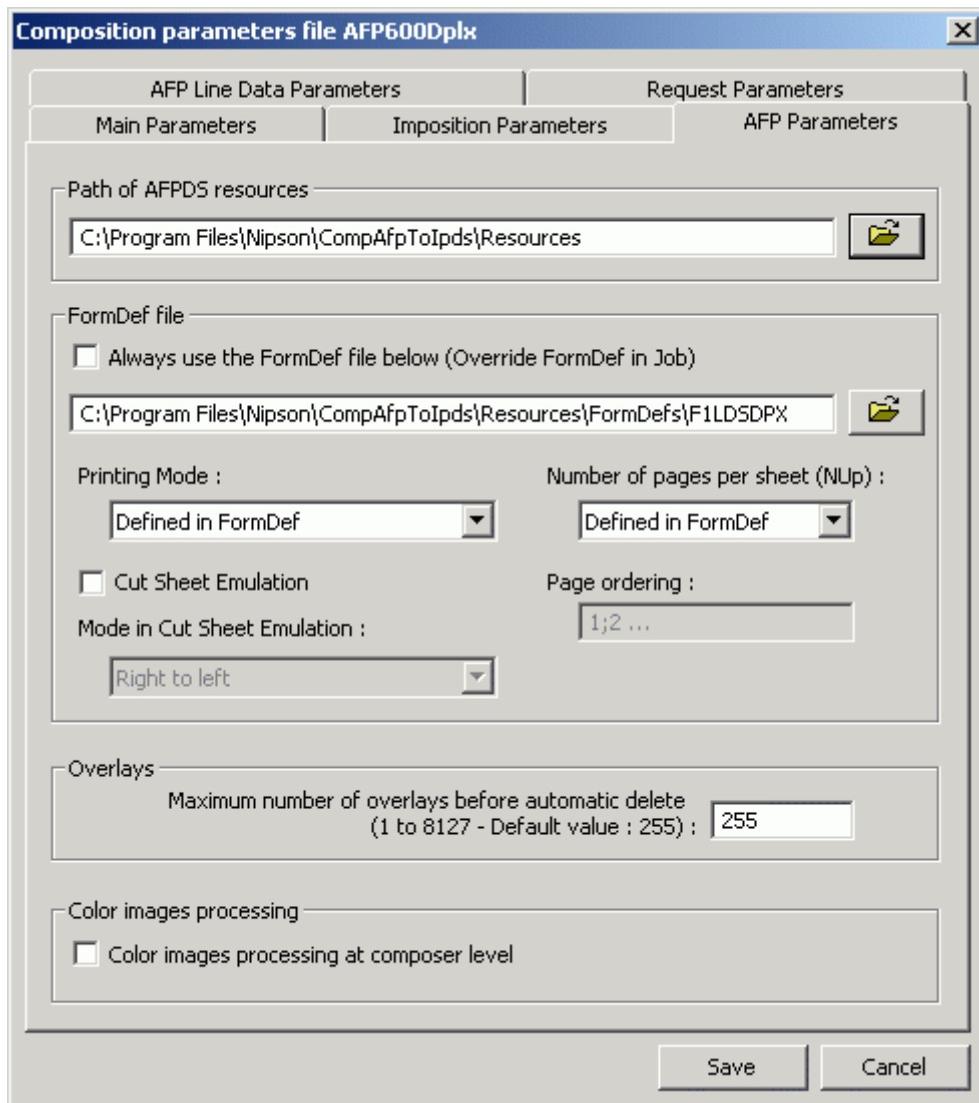


Figure 3-22 Parameters file : 'AFP Parameters' tab

The third tab '**AFP Parameters**' allows to define the following parameters:

- **Path of AFPDS resources:**

Allows to define a directory in which are the resources associated with the Job to be composed. By default, in the standard installation case, this directory is :

'C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpToIpds\Resources'.

- **FormDef file :**

Allows to select a FormDef file necessary to composition. By default, (in the standard installation case), a file in the directory :

'C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpToIpds\Resources\FormDefs'.

must be selected. This one will be used if the AFP job doesn't contain FormDef.

The check box ‘**Always use the FormDef file below**’ allows to force the use of selected FormDef instead of that in the job.

Printing Mode : It is possible to use the Printing Mode defined at the FormDef level or to force a predefined Printing Mode in the list :

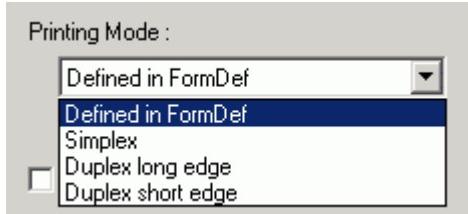


Figure 3-23 'AFP Parameters' tab' : Printing Mode

Number of pages per sheet (NUp) : It is possible to use the parameter ‘**NUp**’ defined at the FormDef level or to force a predefined value in the list :

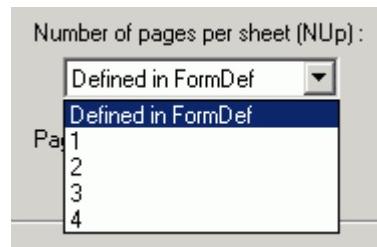


Figure 3-24 'AFP Parameters' tab' : Number of pages per sheet

Page ordering : In the case where one forces the parameter ‘**NUp**’ with a predefined value of the list, one can also define the page ordering. Attention, this one must be coherent with the Printing Mode and the parameter ‘**NUp**’.

Examples :

3;2;1 NUp = 3 and Simplex

3;2;1;6;5;4 NUp = 3 and Duplex

2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7 NUp = 4 and Duplex

To separate the pages number, one can use the ‘;’ character or the space character.

Cut Sheet Emulation : This check box allows to select the ‘**Cut Sheet Emulation**’ Mode. If this mode is selected, it is not possible to define the parameter ‘**NUp**’. This one and the ‘**Page ordering**’ parameter are disabled.

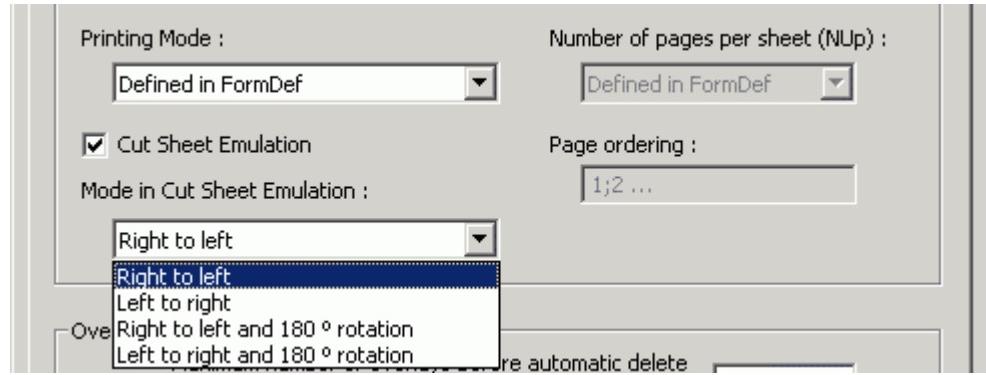


Figure 3-25 'AFP Parameters' tab' : Cut Sheet Emulation

If the '**Cut Sheet Emulation**' option is selected, the combo box '**Mode in Cut Sheet Emulation**' is enabled and allows to select one of 4 modes as shown above.

- **Overlays :**
Optimizes memory usage of the printer when printing.

- **Color images processing :**

If one checks the ‘**Color images processing at composer level**’ check box, the color images processing will be made at composer level. In the other case, the color images processing will be made at printer level.

When this function ‘**Color images processing at composer level**’ is selected, the color images are converted in grey level and therefore, it is necessary to select a **.pqf** file to be used for the grey level images processing in the ‘**Imposition Parameters**’ tab as indicated below. (See the document **UG_PQF_FilesManager.pdf** for more information on PQF files).

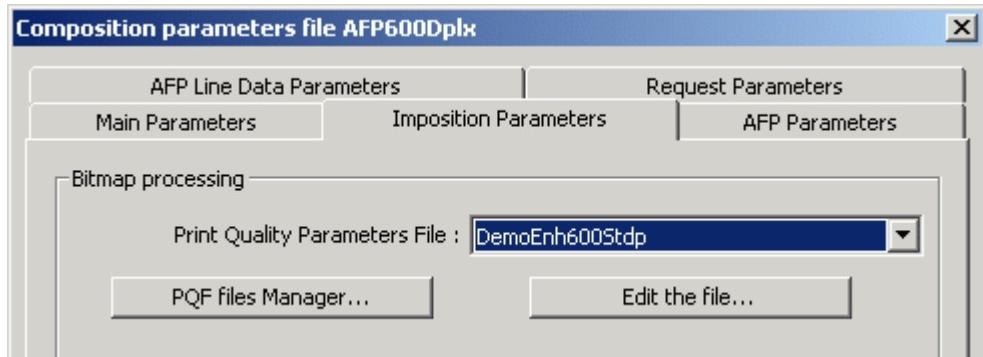


Figure 3-26 'Imposition Parameters' : .pqf file

Example of the '**AFP Parameters**' tab with different options selected :

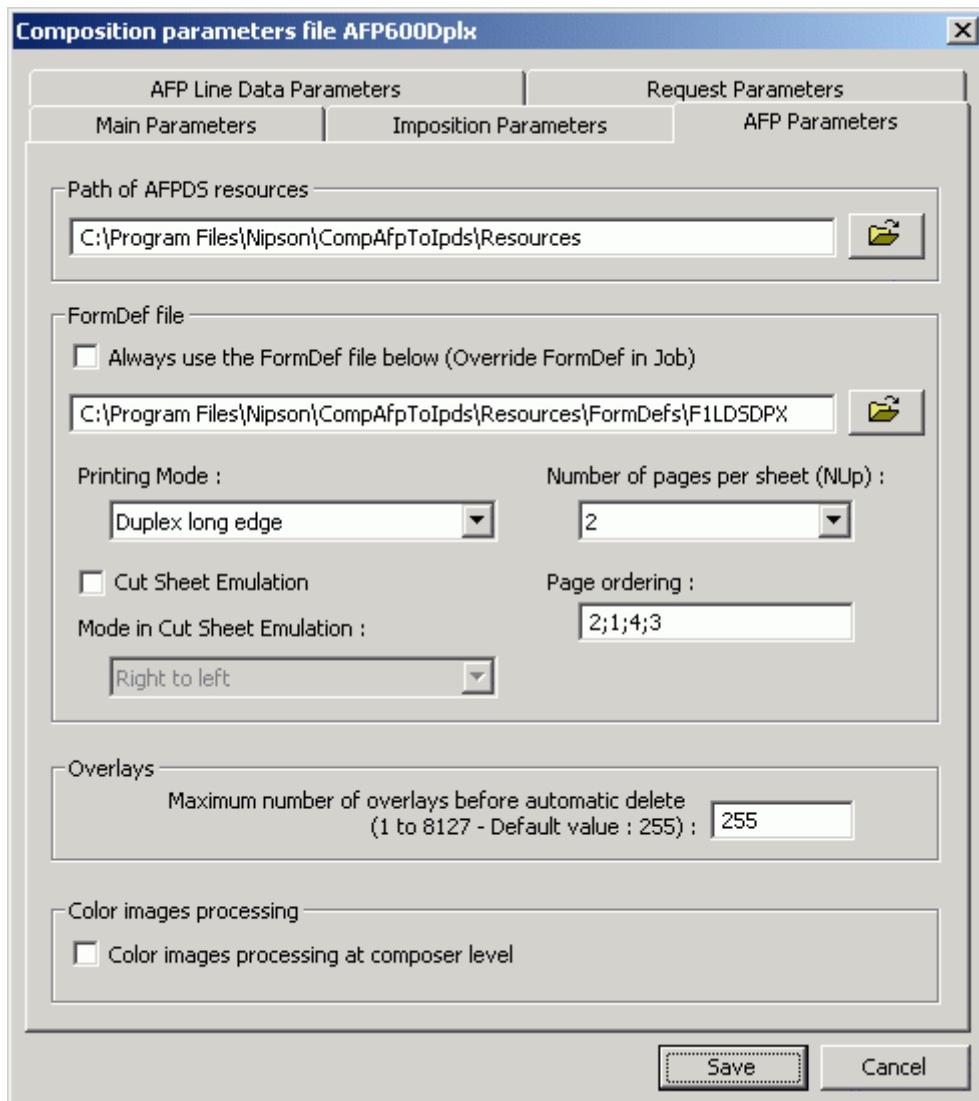


Figure 3-27 Parameters file : 'AFP Parameters' tab

The fourth tab 'AFP Line Data Parameters' :

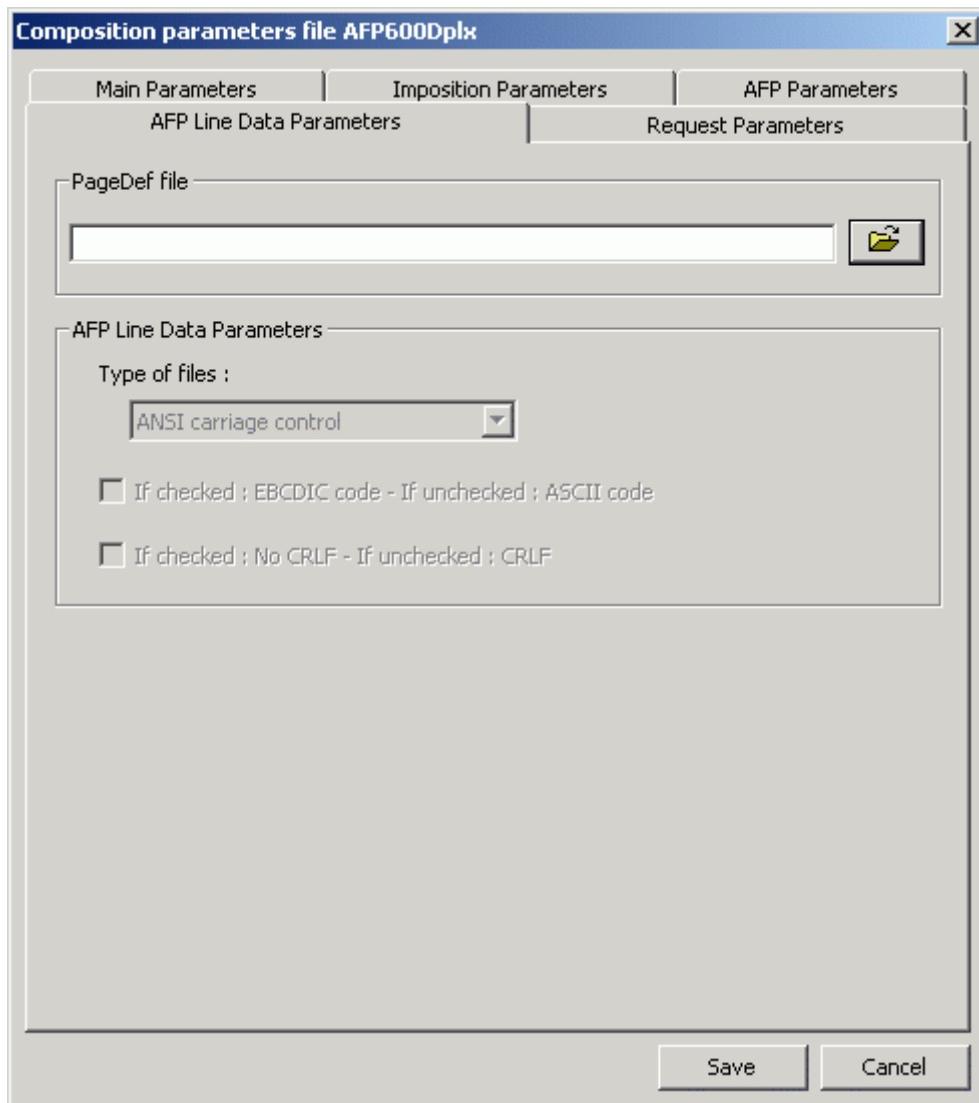


Figure 3-28 Parameters file : 'AFP Line Data Parameters' tab

The fourth tab 'AFP Line Data Parameters' allows to define the following parameters:

- **PageDef file :**
Allows to select a PageDef file necessary to composition. By default, (in the standard installation case), no file in the directory :
'C:\Program Files\Nipson\CompAfpToIpds\Resources\PageDefs'.
is selected.

The fourth tab 'AFP Line Data Parameters' with a PageDef selected :

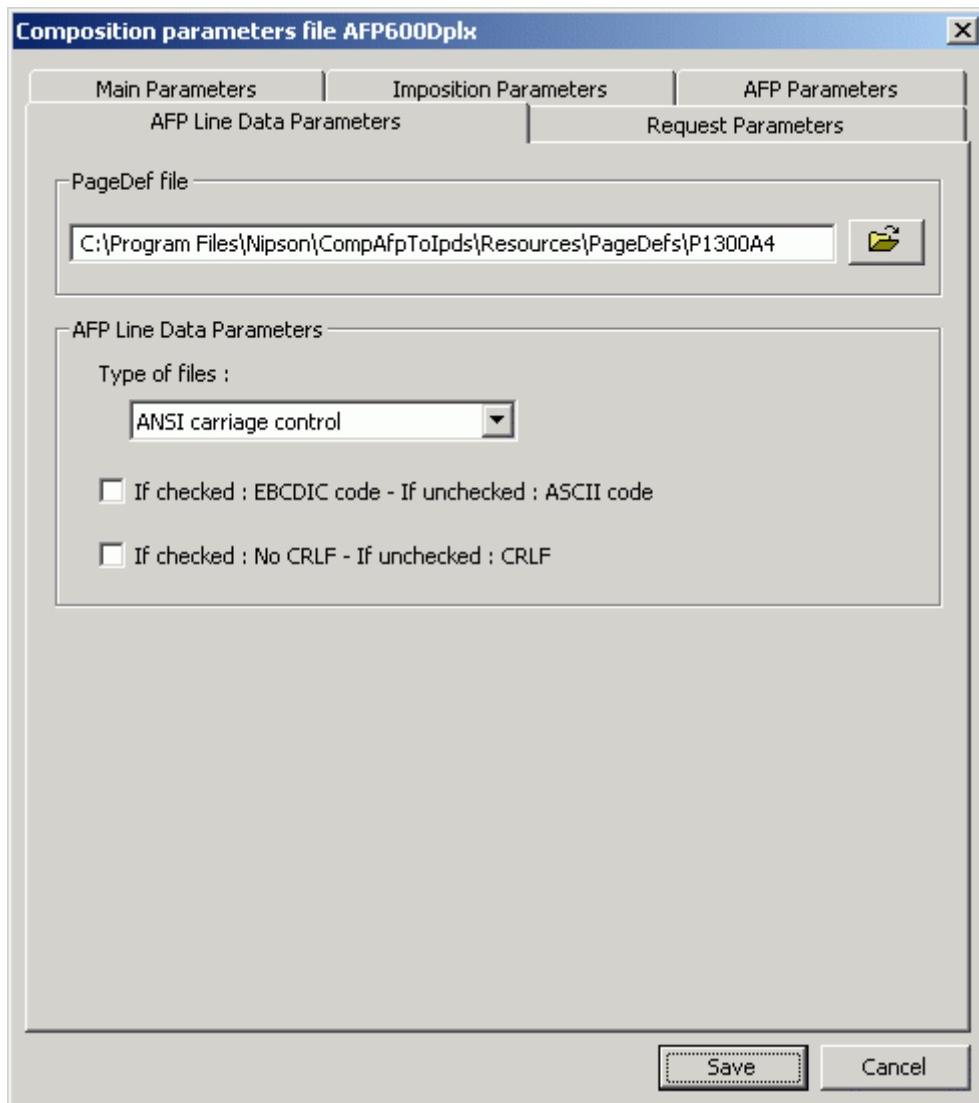


Figure 3-29 Parameters file : 'AFP Line Data Parameters' tab

- **AFP Line Data Parameters :**

The parameters of this group are enabled only if a **PageDef** file is selected as shown above.

They can define the format of the input file in the case of Line Mode files.

- **Type of files :**

4 types of files can be selected :

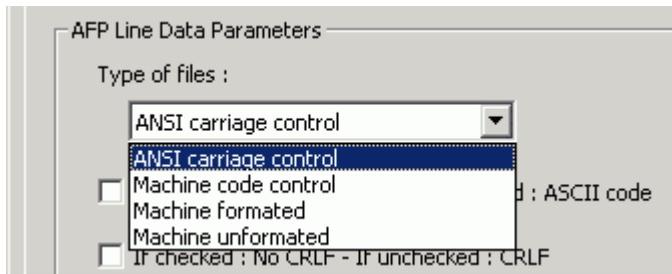


Figure 3-30 'AFP Line Data Parameters' tab : Type of files

- **Check box EBCDIC/ASCII :**

Allows to select the encoding type of the input file.

- **Check box CRLF :**

Allows to select the encoding end line of the input file.

The fifth tab 'Request Parameters' :

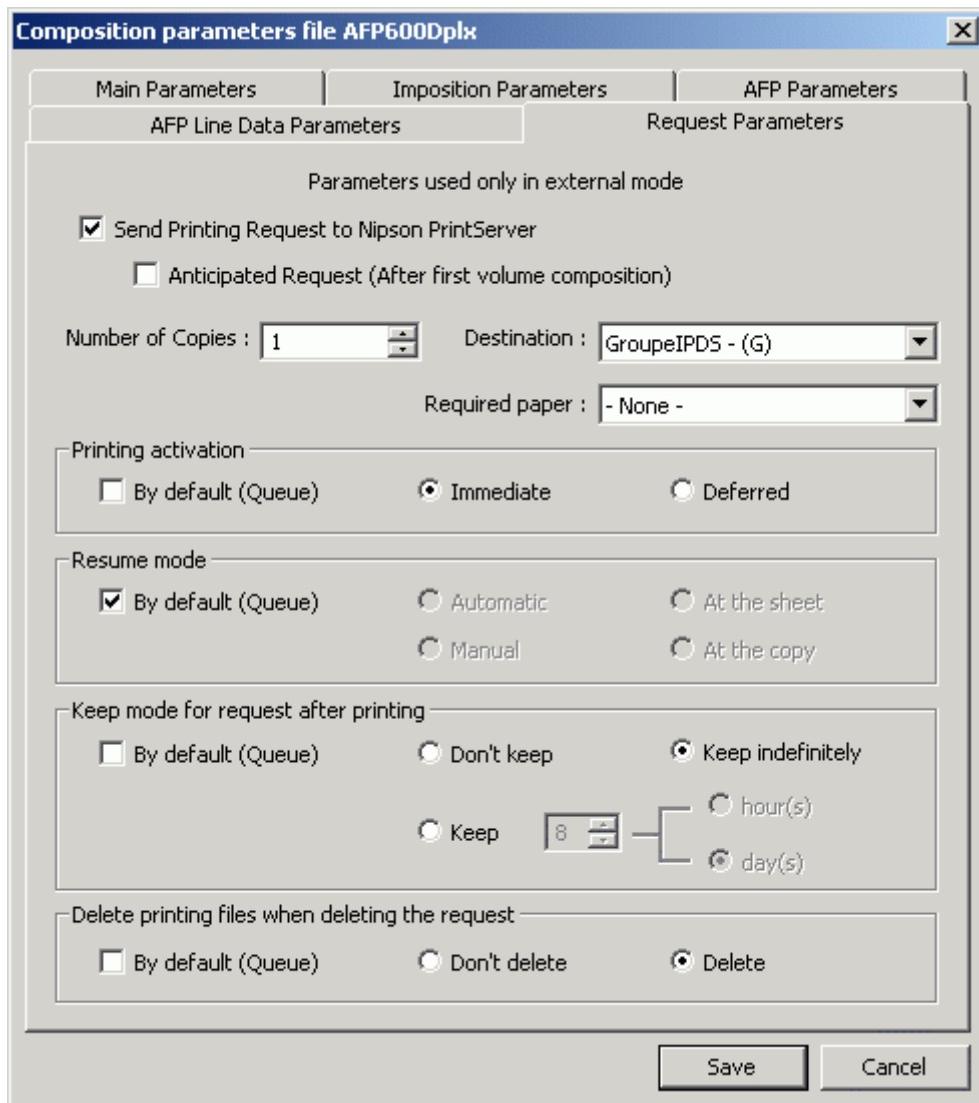


Figure 3-31 Parameters file : 'Request Parameters' tab

This fifth tab 'Request Parameters' allows to define the needed parameters for the printing request generation to be submitted to a **Nipson PrintServer** application. Use this parameters only if you defined a connection with a **Nipson PrintServer** application and that **CompAfpTolpds** is used manually as **External CompAfpTolpds**. In the case of **integrated CompAfpTolpds**, even if this parameter setting exists, it is not taken into account at the composition time since the request already exists on **Nipson PrintServer** : Composition request which will become automatically printing request at the end of the job composition.

This tab allows to define the following parameters:

- **Send Printing Request to Nipson PrintServer** : Check this item allows to enable the printing request generation to be submitted to a **Nipson PrintServer** application. When this item isn't checked, all the other items in the tab are grayed, these parameters being unused if one doesn't generate a printing request.
- **Anticipated Request (After first volume composition)** : If this item isn't checked, the request will be generated by the composer at the end of complete job composition. If this item is checked, the request will be generated by the composer as soon as the first

volume of the job is composed. This makes it possible to anticipate the request and thus the printing before the end of the composition. This anticipation will occur obviously only if the size of the job is such as this one is cut out in several volumes.

- **Number of copies** : Allows to define the number of job copies to print.
- **Destination** : Allows to choose the request destination in the drop-down list. This destination can be:
 - a printer (or Queue) whose name appears in the list in the form '**name - (Q)**',
 - a group of printers whose name appears in the list in the form '**name - (G)**' : in this case, the job will be printed on the first available printer in the group,
 - the named '**Default Queue**' printer: in this case, the job will be printed on the printer defined as the default printer at the **Nipson PrintServer** application level.
- **Paper** : Allows to choose in the drop-down list the paper which must be mounted on the printer for the job printing. This paper can be:
 - a paper whose name appears in the list,
 - the paper whose name appears in the list in the form '**- None -**' : In this case, the job will be printed without holding account of the mounted paper on the printer.
- **Activation** : Allows to define the initial state of the request at the time of its submitting to **Nipson PrintServer**. 3 cases are possible:
 - **Immediate** : In this case, the request will be created on **Nipson PrintServer** in the '**Wait for printing**' state; It will be automatically printed as soon as the destination printer is available.
 - **Hold** : In this case, the request will be created on **Nipson PrintServer** in the '**Hold**' state; The operator will have to intervene on **Nipson PrintServer** to activate this request.
 - **By default (Queue)** : In this case, initial request state isn't defined here; This state will be that which was defined at the printer (or Queue) level on **Nipson PrintServer**.
- **Restart Mode** : Allows to choose the operating mode in the event of incident on the printer requiring a restart of the printing. 5 cases are possible:
 - **Automatic + At a sheet** : Automatic restart at the sheet.
 - **Automatic + At a copy** : Automatic restart at the copy.
 - **Manual + At a sheet** : Manual restart at the sheet.
 - **Manual + At a copy** : Manual restart at the copy.
 - **By default (Queue)** : In this case, the restart mode will be determined by the equivalent parameter of the destination printer at the moment of printing on **Nipson PrintServer**.
- **Keep Mode** : Request keep mode after printing: Allows to define what becomes a request when it is completely printed. 4 cases are possible:
 - **Dont' keep** : Don't keep the request: The request is automatically deleted in the 5 minutes which follow its printing end.
 - **Keep indefinitely** : Keep the request indefinitely: The request isn't deleted after its printing end.
 - **Keep n hour(s) or day(s)** : Keep the request n hour(s) or day(s): The request can be kept from 1 to 50 hours or days after its printing end before being deleted.
 - **By default (Queue)** : In this case, the keep mode will be determined by the equivalent parameter of the destination printer at the end of printing on **Nipson PrintServer**.

- **Delete printing files when deleting request** : Allows to define what become the .ipds files associated with a request when this one is manually deleted by the operator or automatically after his keep time. 3 cases are possible:
 - **Don't delete** : Don't delete the job **IPDS** files when the request is removed.
 - **Delete** : Delete the job **IPDS** files when the request is removed.
 - **By default (Queue)** : In this case, the **IPDS** files delete mode will be determined by the equivalent parameter of the destination printer at the end of printing on **Nipson PrintServer**.

For more details on the definition and the using of request parameters, refer to the documentation of the **Nipson PrintServer** application.

USER GUIDE COMP AFP TO IPDS

4. Using Composer

4.1 START A LOGICAL COMPOSER

Click on the ‘Start...’ button of the ‘**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**’ dialog box allows to start the logical composer selected.

The **CompAfpTolpds** application leaves then the configuration mode and becomes a logical composer application. Its name becomes ‘**CompAfpTolpds_ComposerName**’ (where **ComposerName** is the name given to the logical composer), ‘**CompAfpTolpds_AFP_Local**’ in our example.

The logical composer ‘**CompAfpTolpds_AFP_Local**’ is iconized in the task bar at the launch time because under normal operation, it is not necessary that the ‘**CompAfpTolpds_AFP_Local**’ window appears on the screen.



Figure 4-1 Logical Composer in the task bar

If one validated the creation of the shortcut for logical composer automatic start at the opening session, there is nothing to do to start the logical composer. It also appears in the task bar like above.

When the logical composer is started, one can execute the **CompAfpTolpds** application in configuration mode, but in this case, one will have the following window :

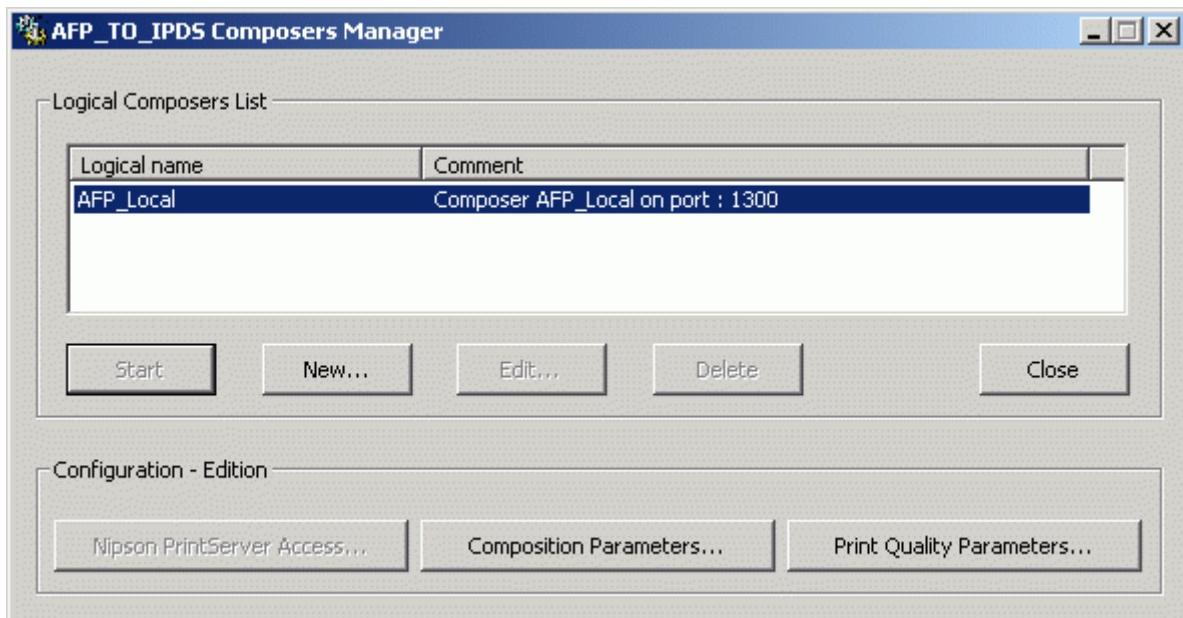


Figure 4-2 CompAfpTolpds in Composers Manager mode

A logical composer being selected, the '**Start**', '**Edit...**', '**Delete**' buttons remain disabled : Indeed, it is not possible any more to execute these functions on a logical composer which is under operation.

For the same reasons, one does not have any more access to the button of **Nipson PrintServer Access** configuration.

If one clicks on the '**CompAfpToIpds_AFP_Local**' icon of our example, the dialog box associated with this application appears. As long as an **Nipson PrintServer** application is not connected to this logical composer, this one is presented as follows :

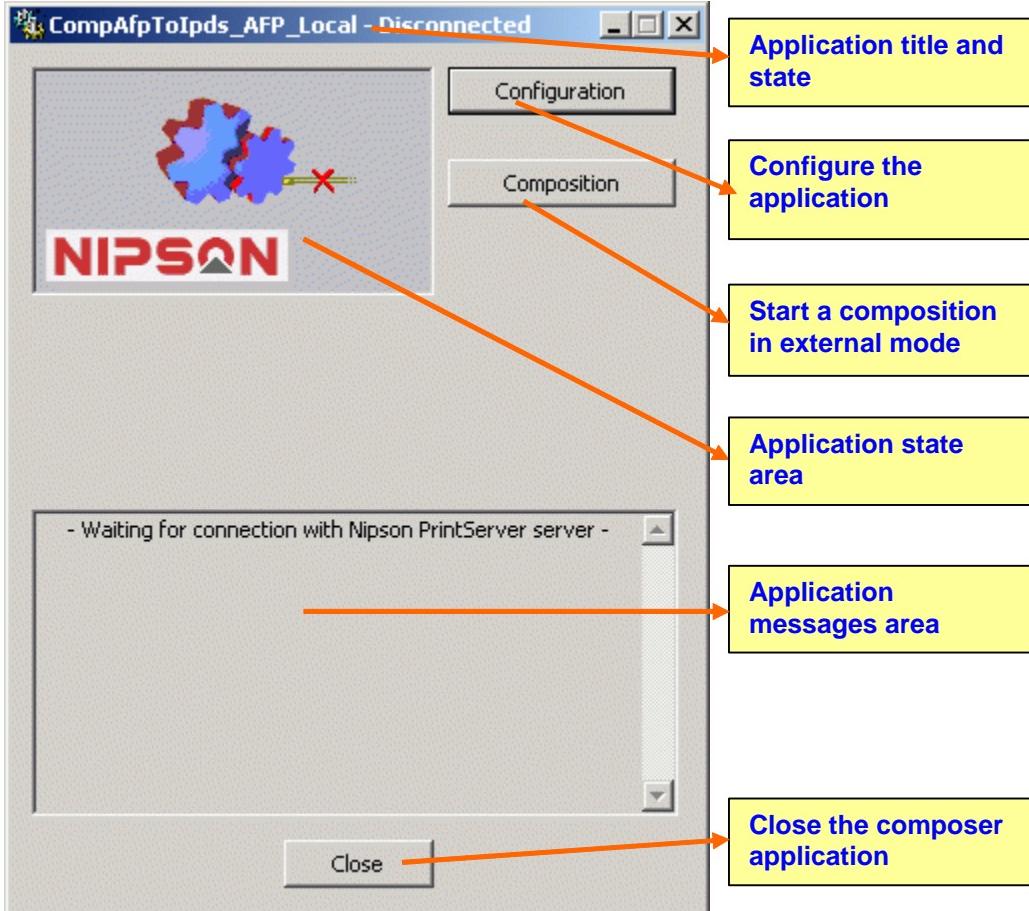


Figure 4-3 Disconnected Logical Composer

The title bar contains the application name '**CompAfpToIpds_AFP_Local**' followed by current state of the application : here '**Disconnected**'. See chapter 4.2 for a description of other states.

In the '**Disconnected**' state, two buttons are accessible :

- A '**Configuration**' button that allows to access to the same dialog box '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composer Parameters Edition**' as that accessible by the '**Edit...**' button of the '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**' dialog box.
- A '**Composition**' button that allows to launch a composition manually in external mode. See chapter 4.3 for a description of this function.

Click on the icon on the left in title bar shows the system menu :

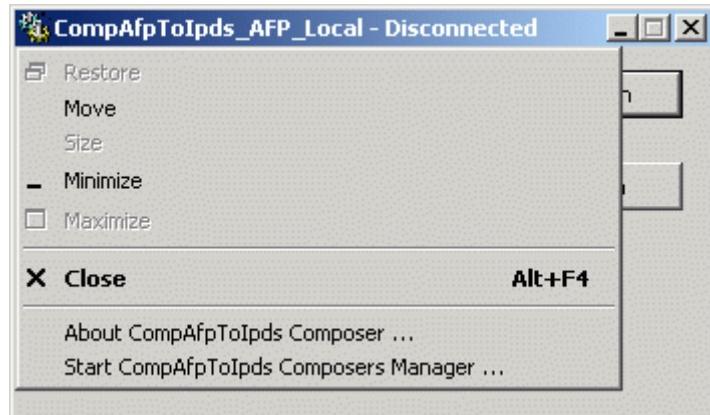


Figure 4-4 System Menu

A click with the right button of the mouse on the application icon in the task bar also shows the system menu :



Figure 4-5 System Menu

The system menu allows to access to the application '**About**' dialog box, this one making it possible to see the application version.

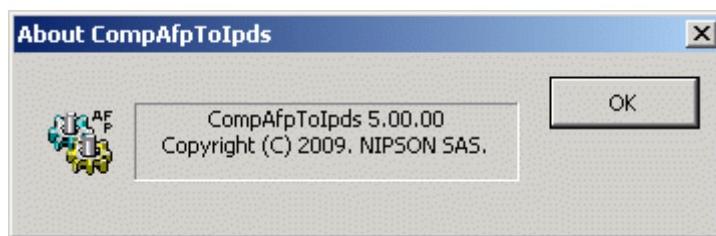


Figure 4-6 'About' Dialog Box

The last menu item allows to start the composer in '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composers Manager**' mode.

Click on the ‘Configuration’ button shows for example the following window :

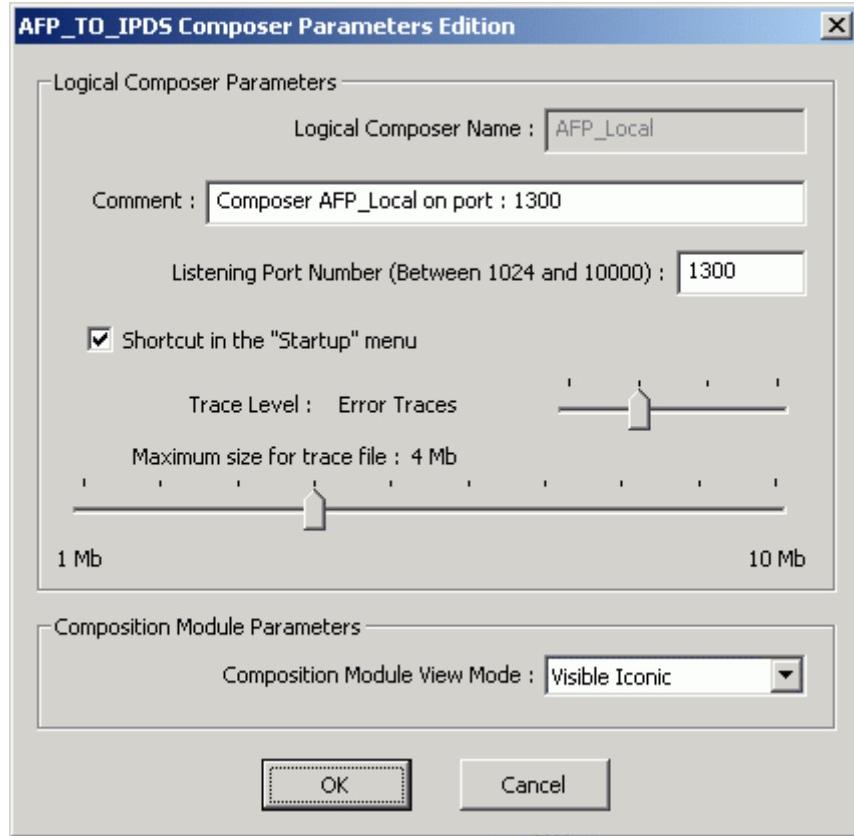


Figure 4-7 Editing a logical composer

It is the same dialog box as that of the ‘New...’ or ‘Edit...’ functions described previously, except with regard to the logical composer name which it is not possible to modify since it is started. All the other parameters are modifiable and are taken into account immediately after validation by the ‘OK’ button.

It should be noted that as soon as one opened this dialog box, the logical composer suspends waiting for connection to a **Nipson PrintServer** application on the listening port. Waiting for connection is reactivated as of the closing of dialog box. It is what the messages say which appear in the application messages area.

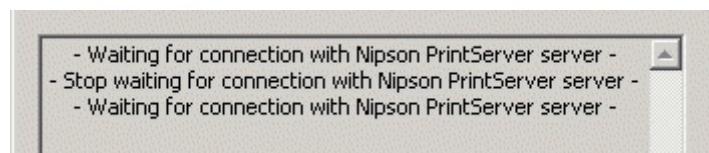


Figure 4-8 Stop - Start waiting for connection

4.2 LOGICAL COMPOSER STATES

As explained in the preceding chapter, under normal operation, the logical composer '**CompAfpToIpds_AFP_Local**' is iconized in the task bar, and its state is indicated only in the icon of the application. If the window of the application is visualized, one can follow the jobs composition in progress.

4.2.1 'Disconnected' State

The window of the application is presented as follows :

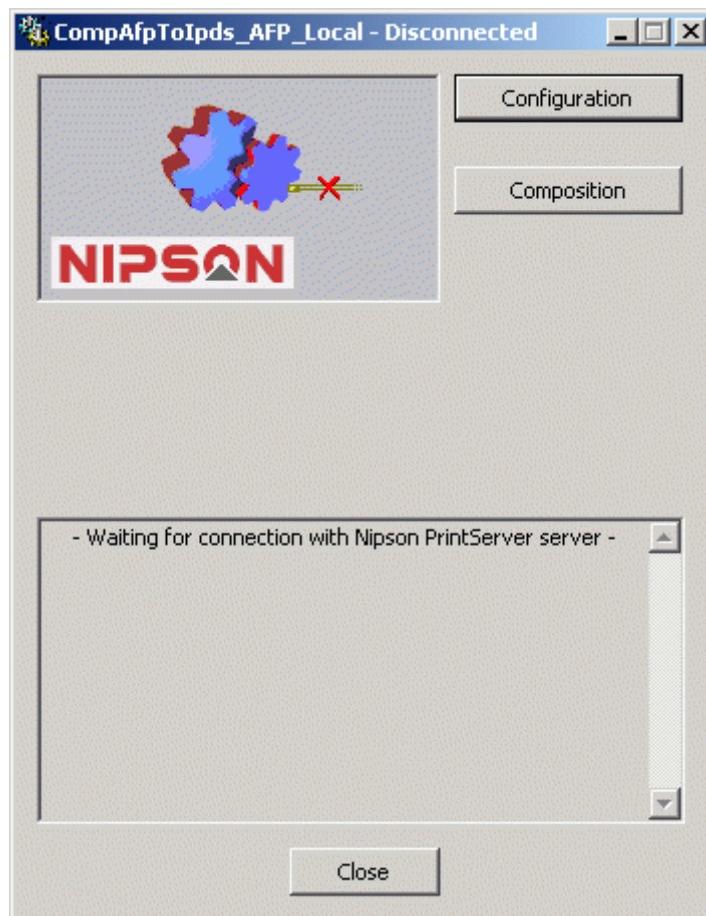


Figure 4-9 CompAfpToIpds in 'Disconnected' State

In this state, the logical composer '**CompAfpToIpds_AFP_Local**' is waiting for a connection with a **Nipson PrintServer** application.

In this state, the '**Configuration**' button is available ; it is not it in all the other states.

4.2.2 ‘Ready’ State

The window of the application is presented as follows :

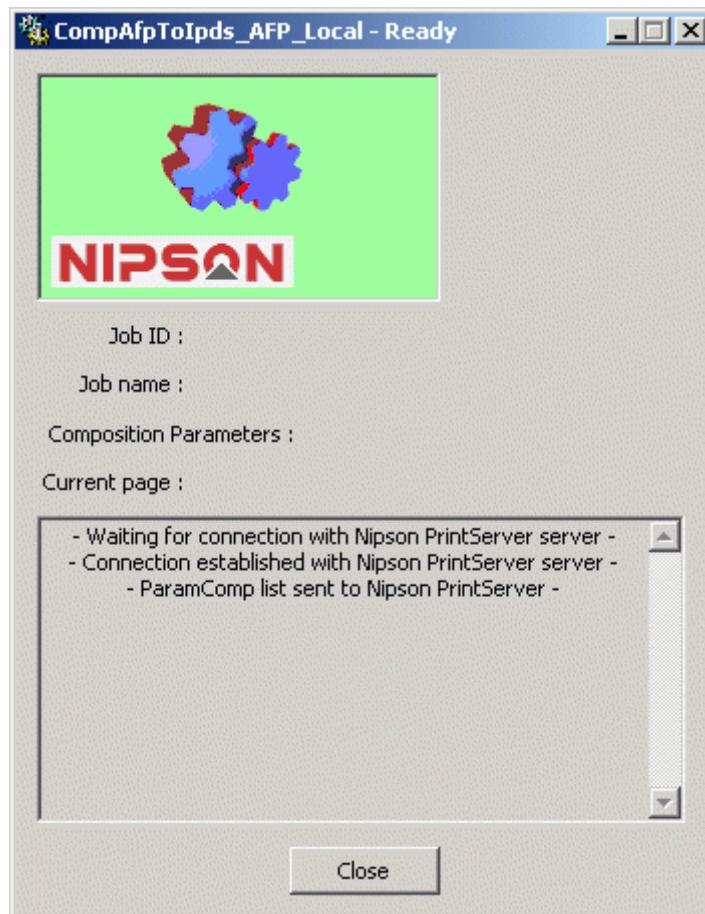


Figure 4-10 CompAfpToIpds in ‘Ready’ State

In this state, a connection has been established between **CompAfpToIpds** application and **Nipson PrintServer** application. In this case, **CompAfpToIpds** is waiting for a job composition command coming from **Nipson PrintServer**. At the time of the passage to the ‘Ready’ state, **CompAfpToIpds** sends the list of the ‘Composition parameters files’ of composer to **Nipson PrintServer**, in manner that one can select them for the composition requests creation in **Nipson PrintServer**.

4.2.3 ‘Working’ State

At composition start, the window of the application is presented as follows :

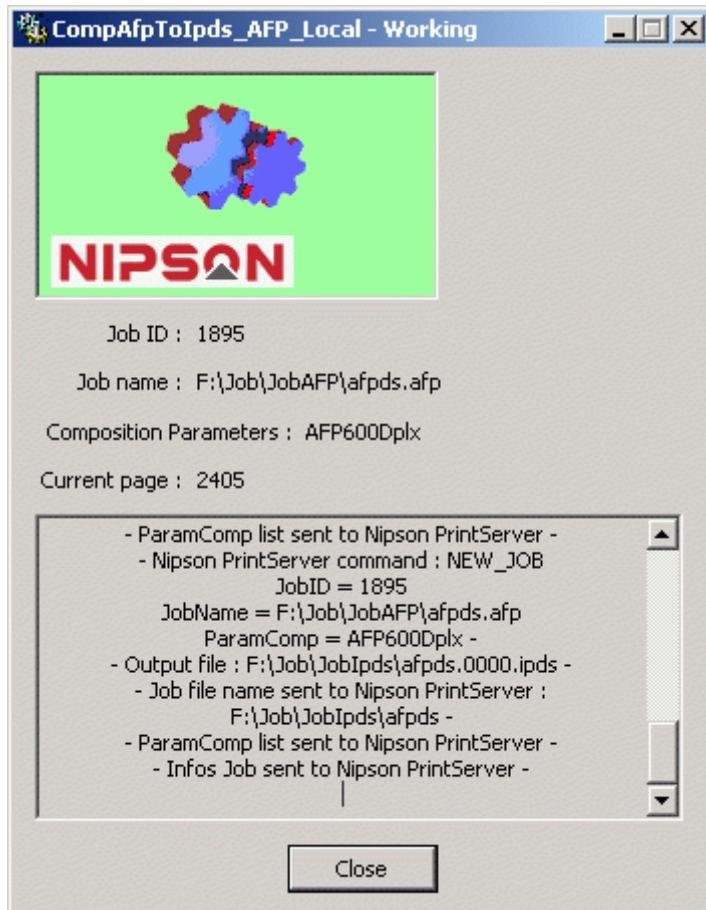


Figure 4-11 CompAfpTolpds in ‘Working’ State

This state with the animated image indicates that an job composition command was received from **Nipson PrintServer** and that a job is currently in composition. It is in this state that **CompAfpTolpds** launches automatically the execution of the composition module **AfpTolpds** with the necessary parameters.

The message area shows the principal commands received from **Nipson PrintServer** and the information returned to **Nipson PrintServer** such as for example the composed file name created by composition module **AfpTolpds**. This information makes it possible **Nipson PrintServer** to update the request to be able to print it after the composition.

At the top of the message area, there are information concerning the **composition request** in progress :

- Its ID (**Nipson PrintServer** request number),
- the job name in process,
- the ‘**ParamComp**’ used by **AfpTolpds** for the composition,
- the current page number in process on **AfpTolpds**.

As soon as the job composition is finished, the **CompAfpToIpds** application returns automatically in the ‘Ready’ state; the window is presented then as follows :

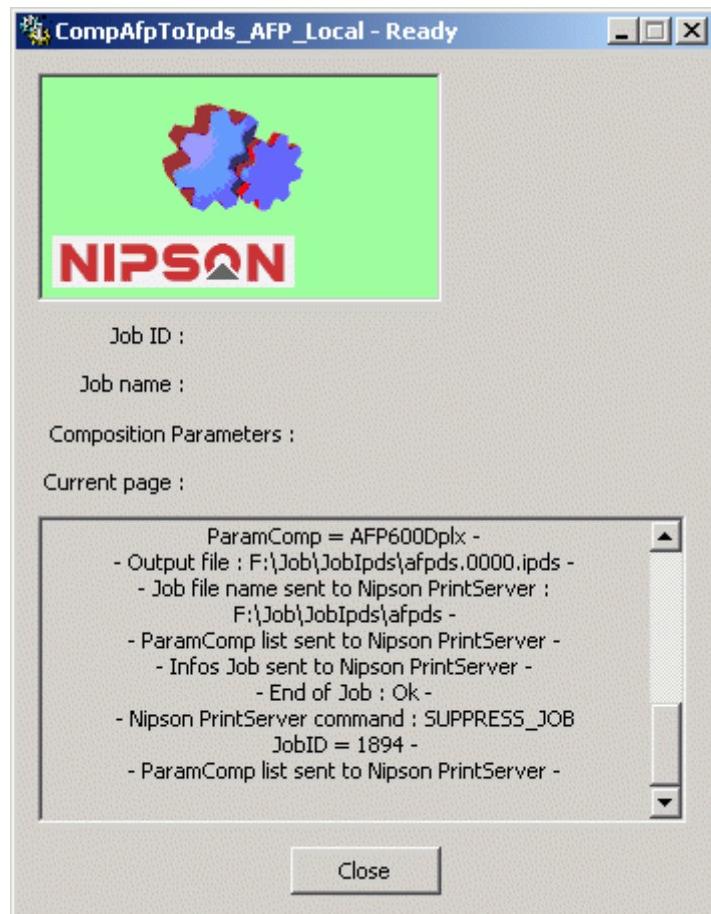


Figure 4-12 CompAfpToIpds in ‘Ready’ State

CompAfpToIpds is newly available for a new composition command from **Nipson PrintServer**.

4.2.4 ‘Error’ State

In the case where an fatal error occurs at **CompAfpToIpds** composer level, the application window can in certain cases be presented as follows :

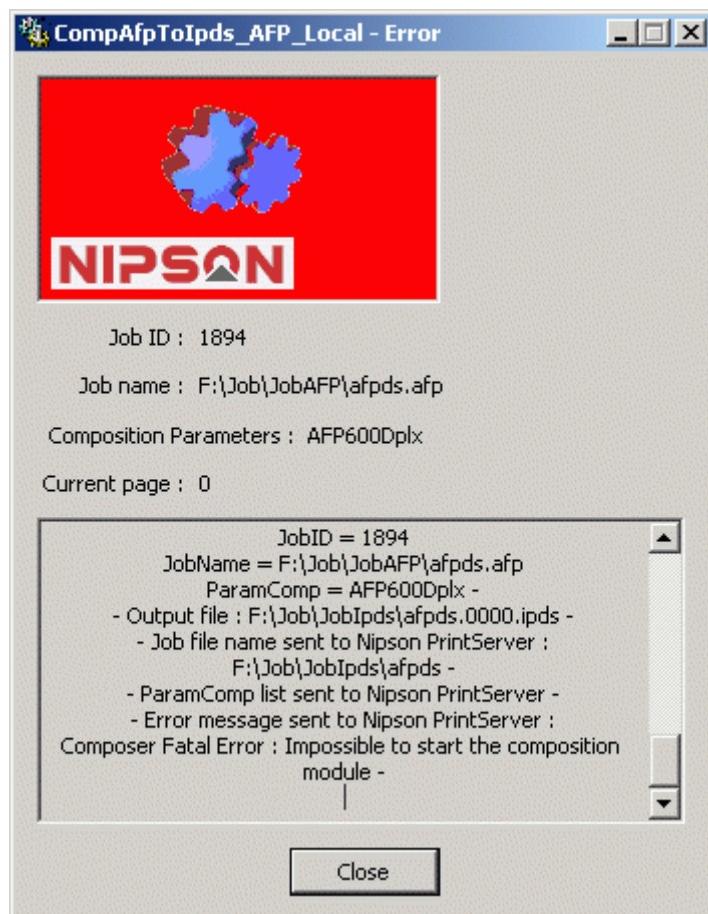


Figure 4-13 CompAfpToIpds in ‘Error’ State

In the case of a fatal error on the composer, **CompAfpToIpds** passes in the ‘Error’ state. The request which was processed at this time also passes in error. According to the nature of the error, **CompAfpToIpds** can reinitialize itself in a few seconds and automatically returns in the ‘Ready’ state, but in certain cases, one will need a manual intervention of the user to correct the error in the applications.

It should be noted that if a fatal error occurs on the job in composition, the request passes in error, but not the composer. In this case, the request is automatically removed from the composer and this one returns in the ‘Ready’ state.

4.3 MANUAL COMPOSITION

As considering previously, in the '**Disconnected**' state, a '**Composition**' button is accessible and allows to launch a composition in external mode manually.

The window application is presented as follows :

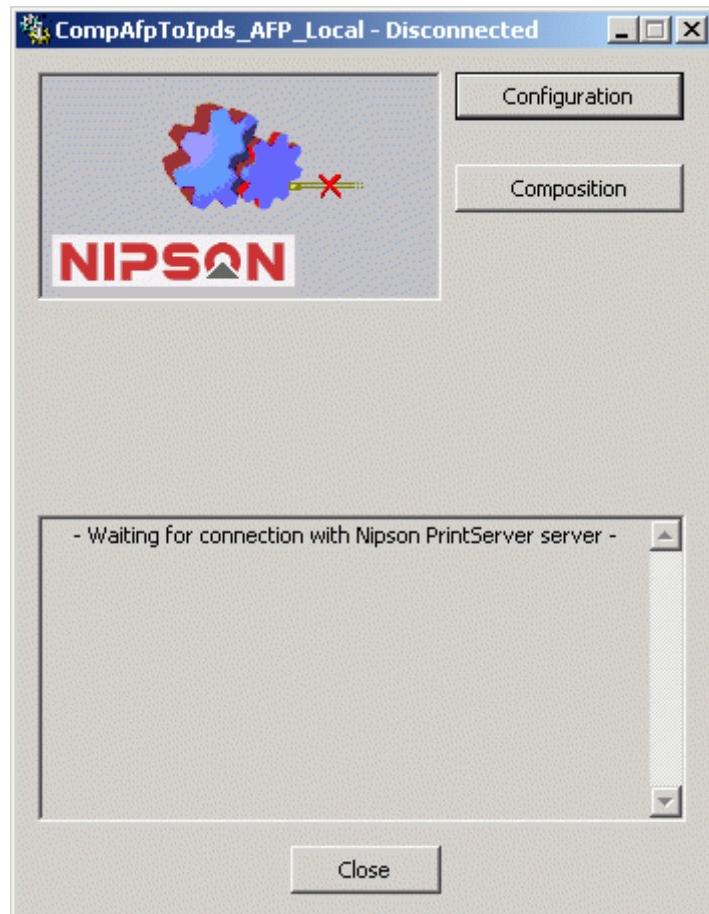


Figure 4-14 CompAfpToIpds in 'Disconnected' state

To execute a manual composition in external mode, click on the ‘Composition’ button. The dialog box ‘Select job to be composed’ is presented as follows :

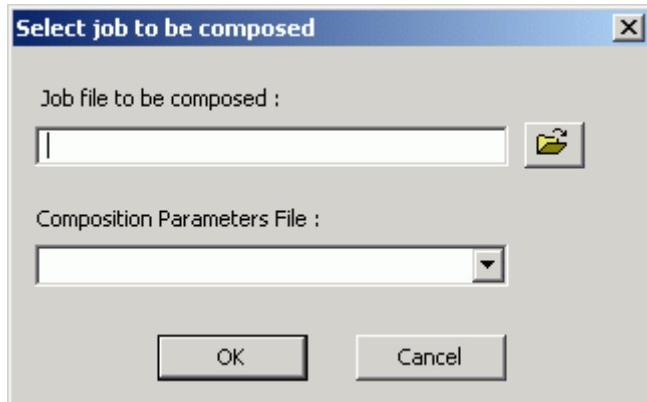


Figure 4-15 Select Job to be composed'

In the ‘Composition Parameters File’ Combobox, select a file in the list.

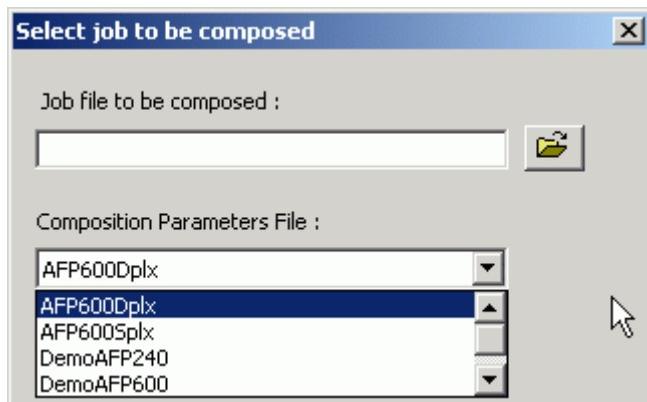


Figure 4-16 Select a Composition parameters file

Select then the job to be composed by using the browser button.

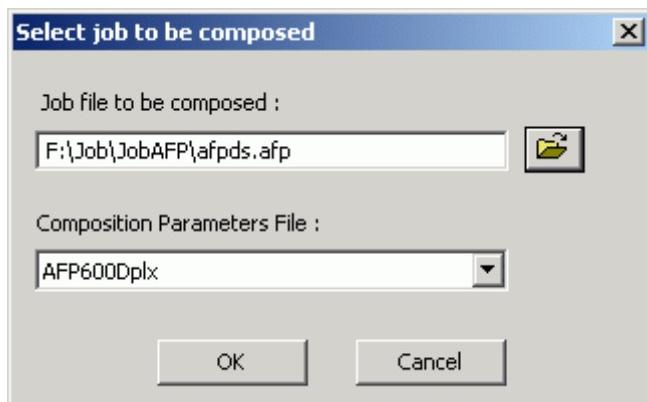


Figure 4-17 Select the job to be composed

Click on OK button to start the composition.

During the composition, the application window is presented as follows :

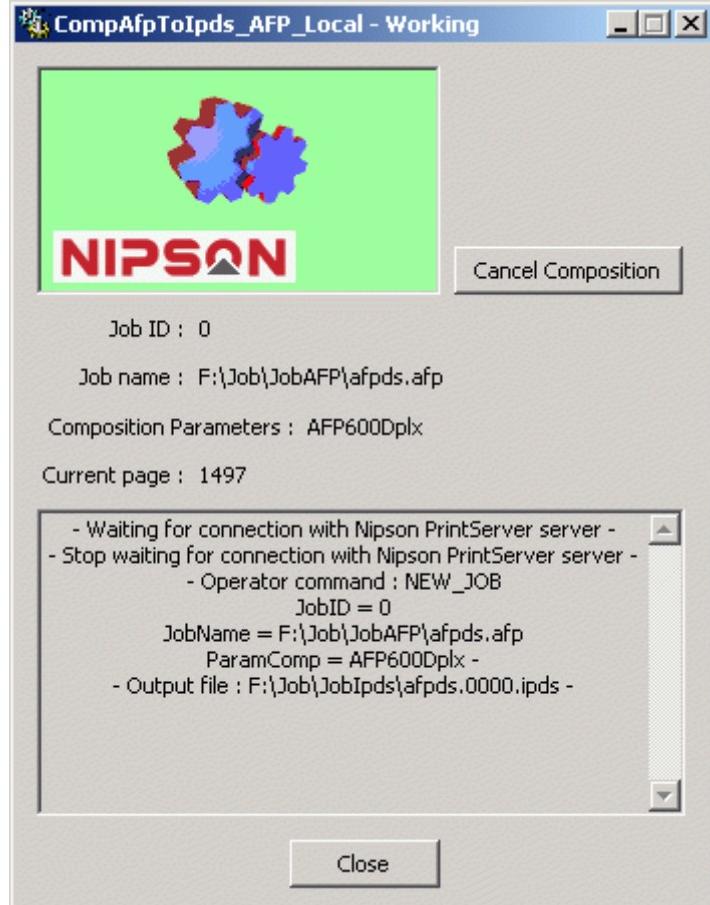


Figure 4-18 External composition in progress'

It is in fact the same window as the '**working**' window in **connected** to **Nipson PrintServer** mode. The only differences are :

- The job ID is always equal to 0.
- The presence of a '**Cancel Composition**' button which makes it possible to stop the composition in progress if necessary.
- At the end of composition, **CompAfpToIpds** returns to '**Disconnected**' state instead of the '**Ready**' state when one is connected to **Nipson PrintServer**.

At the end of the composition, the application window is presented as follows ::

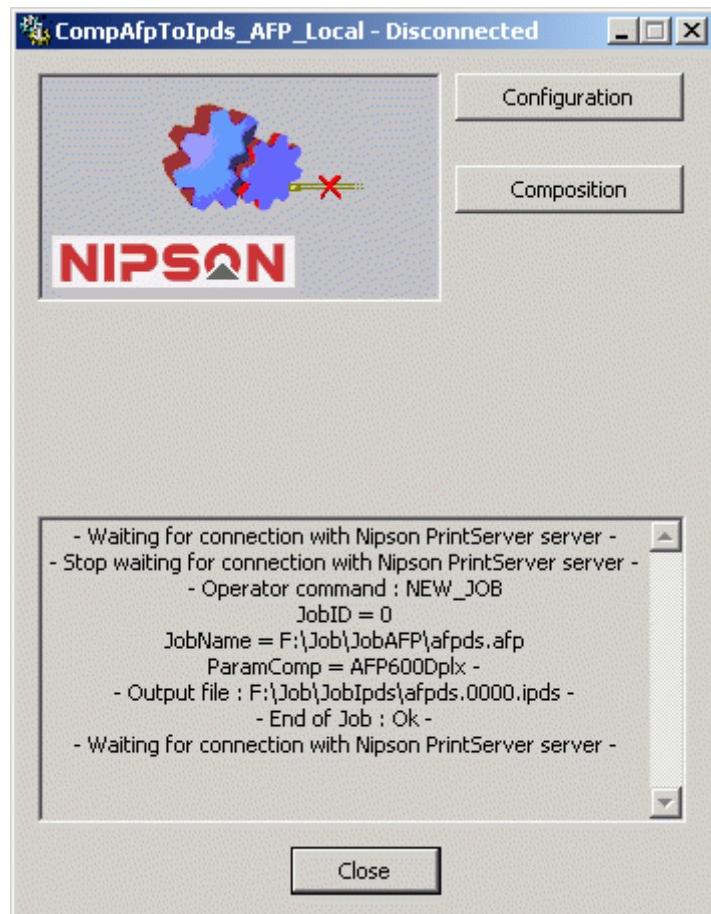


Figure 4-19 End of manual composition

When one is in a **disconnected** state, and that one clicked on the '**Configuration**' button to open '**AFP_TO_IPDS Composer Parameters Edition**' dialog box or that one clicked on the '**Composition**' button to open '**Select job to be composed**' dialog box, the application window is presented as follows :

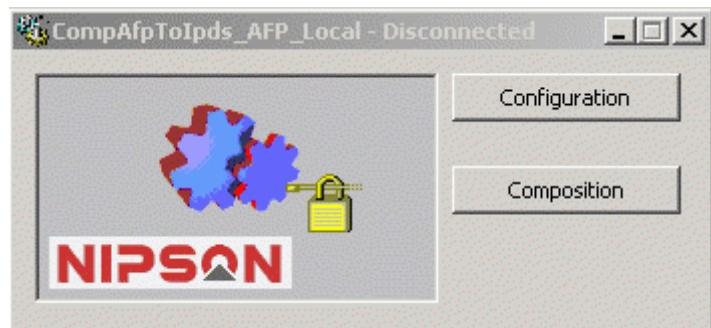


Figure 4-20 Disconnected state with connection disabled

This state indicates that the logical composer suspended waiting for connection of a **Nipson PrintServer** application on the listening port.

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